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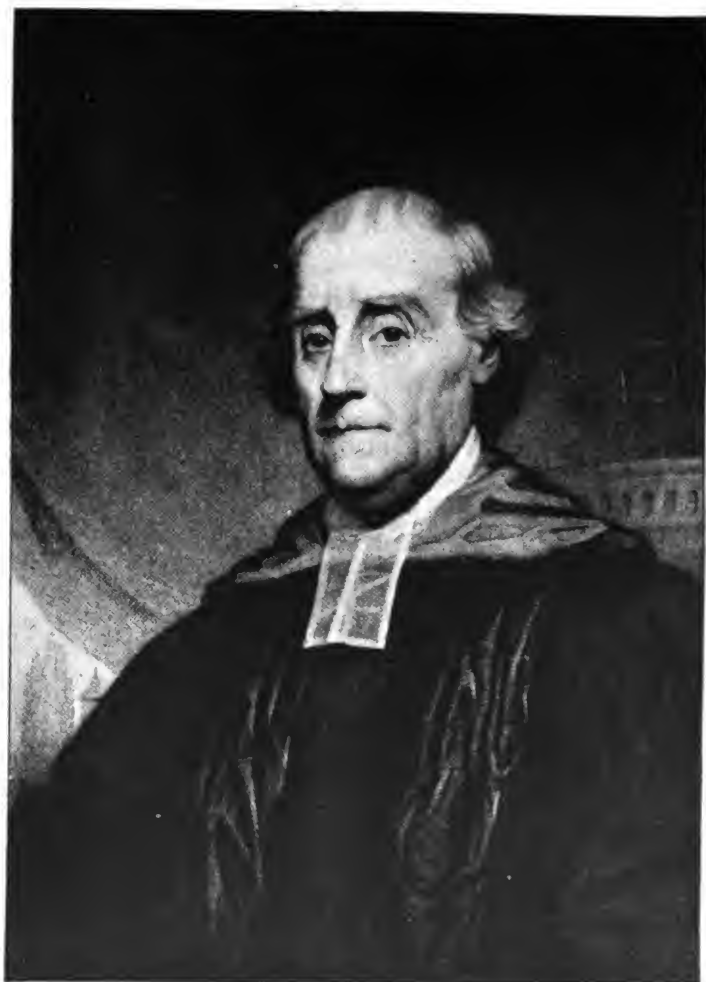
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WILLIAM SMITH, D.D.

FIRST PROVOST OF THE COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA.

EARLY HISTORY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA

FROM ITS ORIGIN TO THE YEAR 1827

BY  
GEORGE B. WOOD, M.D.

—  
THIRD EDITION  
—

WITH SUPPLEMENTARY CHAPTERS

BY  
FREDERICK D. STONE, Litt.D.

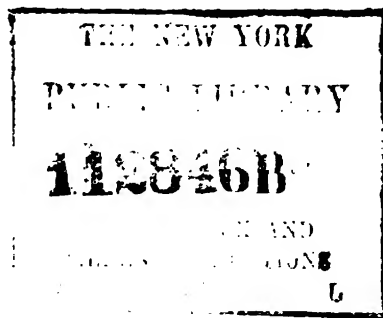
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PHILADELPHIA

1896

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1841-1897



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## PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

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THERE is no institution at the present time in which a more general interest is taken by Philadelphians than in the University of Pennsylvania. Through its various schools and departments its influence is felt in the homes of thousands of our citizens, and with each succeeding year the sphere of that influence is being extended throughout the State. The activity which is always connected with the organization of a new movement has made the public familiar with the history of those departments which have been lately added to the University ; but of the history of the parent school little has been written, and that little is not of easy access to the public. The first contribution in this line was the historical sketch written by the late Dr. George B. Wood in 1827, and printed in the third volume of the *Memoirs*

Pa. Hist. Soc. 3 March 1941

of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1834. It was subsequently included in a volume of "Historical and Biographical Memoirs" by Dr. Wood, published in 1872. The next contributions of importance were a Memoir of the Rev. William Smith, D.D., Provost of the College, Academy, and Charitable School of Philadelphia, by Charles J. Stillé, in 1869; and, in the same year, a History of the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, from its foundation to 1865, by Joseph Carson, M.D. The information contained in Dr. Stillé's excellent memoir was afterwards used, with additions, in a Life of Dr. Smith by his great-grandson, Horace W. Smith, two volumes, octavo, 1879-1880.

Some of these works have been long out of print, and the remnants of the editions of others have been virtually withdrawn from the channels of trade. In 1893, a bulky pamphlet, containing the history of the University and of its several departments, written by many hands and edited by Dr. Francis Newton Thorpe,

was issued by the government as one of the publications of the Bureau of Education, under the title of "Benjamin Franklin and the University of Pennsylvania." But it was attended with the fatality common to many of the publications of the government which are classed as Public Documents and are obtainable only through an application to a department or to a member of Congress. Under these circumstances, an alumnus of the University, who takes an interest in its history and who feels that such is the case with many of its graduates, requested the editor to prepare for publication at his expense a new edition of Dr. Wood's History, adding thereto such information regarding the foundation of the institution as has come to light since the History was written. With the permission of the representatives of Dr. Wood, this has been done; and, as no attempt has been made to bring the history down beyond the time when Dr. Wood closed his labours, the title of his work has been changed to read, "The Early History of the University."

The last six chapters of the book are by the present writer, and he alone is responsible for the views expressed in them. He cannot but feel that Chapter XV. will appear to many unnecessarily long, and that its style is too controversial to be in harmony with that of other portions of the book. The subject, however,—the very origin of the University,—was of such a character that it could not be treated otherwise, and its importance he hopes will be found to justify the length.

Portraits of the early benefactors and professors of the University, together with fac-similes of documents connected with its history, have been added to the present edition; and the editor wishes to express to Messrs. Harper and Brothers his thanks for the use of the electrotpe of the miniature of Franklin which will be found in the volume.

F. D. STONE.

## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

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THE author of the following sketch, having been appointed to deliver the anniversary address before the Philomathean Society of the University of Pennsylvania, in the year 1826, was induced to make some investigations into the history of that institution, the results of which were stated, in general terms, on the occasion referred to. In the course of his inquiries, numerous facts presented themselves, which, though not sufficiently important to claim a place in a brief address, appeared to him too much so to be passed over with neglect; and the idea occurred to him, that a history of the University, for the preparation of which he possessed some materials, was due to the relation in which the Institution was placed to the State and city, and might prove interesting, if not serviceable to the community.

He accordingly extended his researches, and having accumulated such additional facts and information as appeared essential to the purpose, drew up the following account of the school, and presented it to the Historical Society, as a body peculiarly interested in whatever concerns the past or present affairs of Pennsylvania, and one to whose judgment he was desirous of submitting the question of publication. It is proper to state that, in the collection of his materials, the author had access to the Minutes of the University from its origin, in the form of an Academy, in 1749, to the period at which the history closes. His other sources of information were the works of Dr. Franklin and Dr. William Smith, the periodical journals and newspapers, the public documents of the State, and oral or written communications from gentlemen connected with the school. The reader is requested to bear in mind, that the following historical sketch was prepared in the early part of the year 1827; as otherwise he might be led into error, by considering as applicable to the

present time, the references which are frequently made to the period at which the author wrote. It would be a satisfaction to the author, to have it in his power to continue the narration down to the present date, and to conclude with an accurate account of the school as it now exists; but the engrossing nature of his avocations renders this impossible; and he will be under the necessity of contenting himself with some brief notices in the way of notes or appendix in relation to points in which the most interesting changes have occurred.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 20th, 1833.

J 9 Y W

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# EARLY HISTORY

OF THE

## UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

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### CHAPTER I.

EARLY EDUCATION IN PHILADELPHIA.—ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ACADEMY.—INCORPORATION OF THE COLLEGE.

IN newly-settled countries, the necessity of providing for present subsistence, and the desire of securing those comforts which previous habit has rendered indispensable to the enjoyment of life, are apt to divert the attention from objects of less immediate interest. The settlers, while contending with the physical difficulties of their new situation, have little regard for the intellectual wants of their offspring; and forgetting, or imperfectly appreciating the advantages they had them-

selves enjoyed in early life, think that they perform all the duty of parents, by procuring for their children an exemption from those inconveniences, which they have learned to regard as the greatest evils. Education, therefore, is more or less neglected; and it not unfrequently happens, that the community, contrary to the usual course of events, falls back, for the first generation, towards a state of ignorance, instead of advancing in knowledge and civilization. This remark applies, to a certain extent, to the early period of our own history. Though a few individuals, born and educated in the colonies, were elevated into distinction by the force of native talent, yet the great majority of those who were remarkable for literary attainments, had either emigrated from the mother country, or had received their education in her schools.

The first colonists of Pennsylvania were, perhaps, less negligent, in providing the means of elementary instruction, than those of most of the other settlements. In the year 1689, only seven years after

the foundation of Philadelphia, a public school was established in this city, by members of the Society of Friends, which was incorporated in 1697, and, after undergoing various changes in its organization, received, in 1711, a final charter from William Penn. Fifteen "discreet and religious persons, of the people called Quakers," were constituted a Board of Overseers, and were vested with all the property and privileges of the corporation, together with the right of supplying vacancies in their own numbers. George Keith, a native of Aberdeen, a man of learning, and famous in the history of the Friends, was the first teacher employed. In the school were taught the Latin language, the Mathematics, and the rudiments of an English education. Though supported by funds derived from the Society of Friends, and under the exclusive direction of members of that society, it was open indiscriminately to individuals of all religious denominations; and, for more than sixty years, continued to be the only public place of instruction in the Province.

But, before the end of this period, the school had become entirely inadequate to the demand of a rapidly increasing population; and, though private schools were not wanting, still the means even of elementary education were very deficient.\* In the higher branches of knowledge, instruction was accessible only to the sons of the wealthy, who were able to support the expense of a residence abroad, either in the mother country, or in one of the older colonies of New England. There was, therefore, an urgent demand for a seminary, founded upon liberal principles and embracing within its plan all those subjects of study, which are necessary to qualify the youth of a growing and prosperous community for the performance of the various duties of public and private life.

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\* It appears from an extract from the Journal of the Council, given by Proud, in his "History of Pennsylvania," that a school was opened in Philadelphia, so early as the year 1683, by Enoch Flower, a native of Wiltshire, who taught reading, writing, and casting accounts for eight shillings a quarter.

A want so obvious could not escape the penetration of our great Franklin; and, with his active and patriotic spirit, to be convinced of any public deficiency, was at once to use every exertion for its supply. His attention was accordingly directed, at a very early period, to the means of extending the benefits of education in the city and Province; and, in the year 1743, he drew up the plan of an academy, which he communicated to the Rev. Richard Peters, with the hope, that, as this gentleman was then out of employ, he might be induced to take upon himself the superintendence of such an establishment. Failing, however, in obtaining the desired co-operation, and occupied with other public affairs, which appeared to be of more pressing importance, he dropped the scheme for the time; and the war which soon afterwards broke out between Great Britain and France, the effects of which were extended to the colonies, prevented its renewal for several years. Upon the conclusion of the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, and the consequent restoration of tran-

quillity in the provinces, his thoughts reverted to the subject; and, in the year 1749, he entered with zeal upon such measures as he supposed would most promote the success of the project. As the first step, he endeavoured to interest in his favour several friends; of whom Thomas Hopkinson, Tench Francis, and the Rev. Richard Peters seem to have been the most active and efficient. Having secured their approbation and assistance, he next proceeded to write and publish a pamphlet, entitled "Proposals relative to the Education of Youth in Pennsylvania," which he took care to circulate extensively among the most respectable inhabitants of the city. The proposals attracted much attention, and several of the most influential citizens, to the number of twenty-four, having met together, determined to associate themselves into a Board of Trustees, for the purpose of carrying the design into effect.\* Their first object was to establish

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\* Among the names of those gentlemen are many which are still well known and highly esteemed in

PROPOSALS  
RELATING TO THE  
EDUCATION  
OF  
YOUTH  
IN  
*PENNSILVANIA.*

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*PHILADELPHIA:*  
Printed in the Year, M,DCC,XLIX.

[FAC-SIMILE OF THE TITLE-PAGE OF FRANKLIN'S  
PROPOSALS FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUTH.]



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THOMAS HOPKINSON.

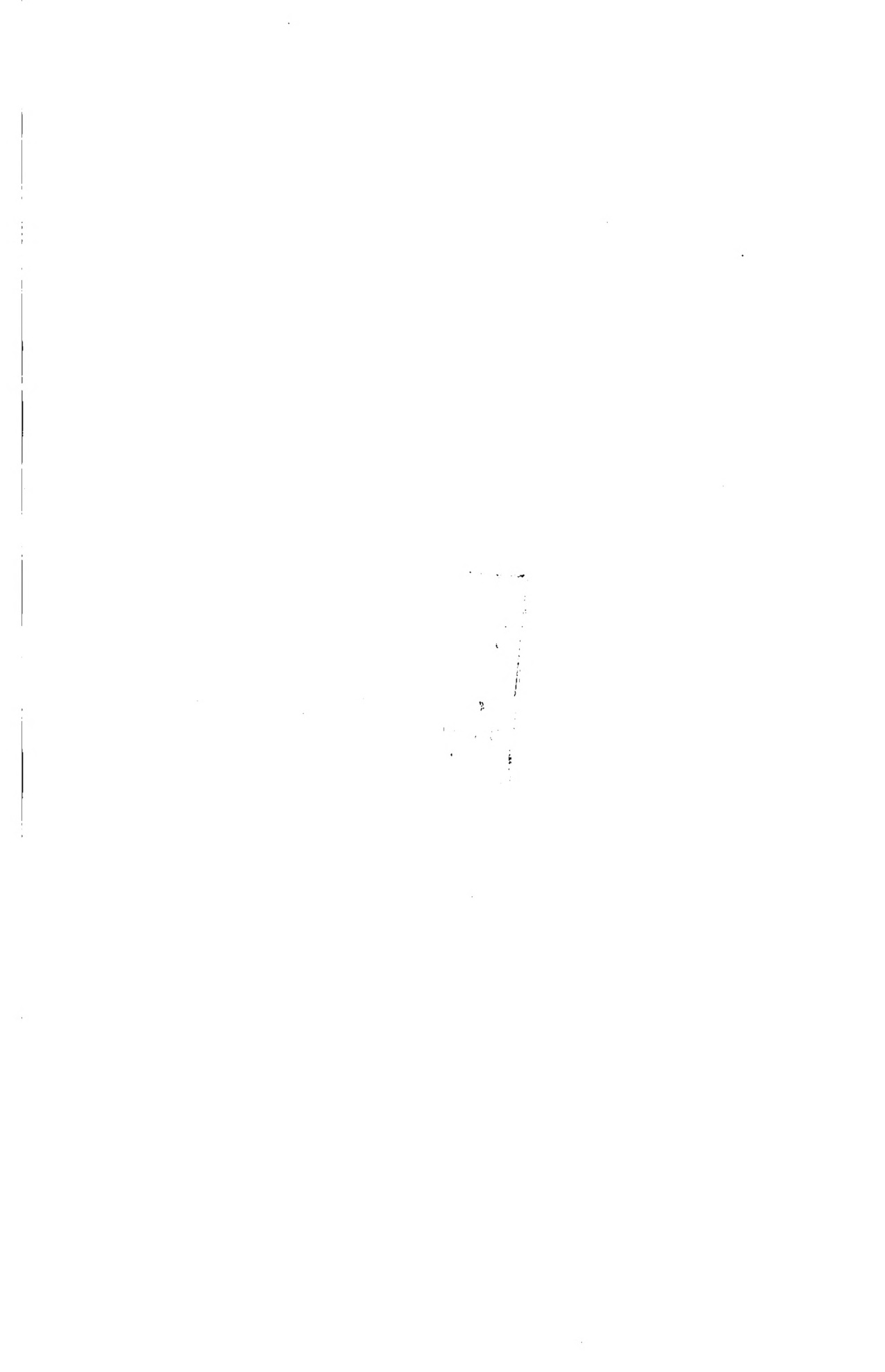
certain regulations for their own government. It was determined that they should not "for any services by them as trustees performed, claim or receive any reward or compensation." It was also determined that the original number of twenty-four should "always be continued, but never exceeded upon any motive whatsoever;" and that vacancies should be supplied by the choice of the board from among the inhabitants of Philadelphia, or persons residing in its immediate neighbourhood. These rules were established as fundamental, and declared to be unalterable: others were also drawn up, adapted to the object in view, but alterable at the pleasure

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Philadelphia. They were James Logan, Thomas Lawrence, William Allen, John Inglis, Tench Francis, William Masters, Lloyd Zackary, Samuel McCall, Jr., Joseph Turner, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Leech, William Shippen, Robert Strettell, Philip Syng, Charles Willing, Phineas Bond, Richard Peters, Abraham Taylor, Thomas Bond, Thomas Hopkinson, William Plumsted, Joshua Maddox, Thomas White, and William Coleman. Benjamin Franklin was chosen president, and William Coleman treasurer, of the board.

of the board. They were signed by the trustees on the 13th of November, 1749.

Having thus constituted themselves governors of the proposed institution, they proceeded to provide funds for its establishment; and on the day following that of the signature, very liberally subscribed among themselves a sum exceeding two thousand pounds, to be raised in five yearly payments, "declaring it to be for the encouragement of their useful, good, and charitable undertaking; and to enable themselves and their successors to begin, promote, continue, and enlarge the same, humbly hoping, through the favour of Almighty God, and the bounty and patronage of pious and well-disposed persons, that it might be of great and lasting benefit to the present and future rising generations." To the amount thus contributed, very considerable additions were afterwards made by subscriptions among the citizens, by gifts and legacies from charitable individuals, and by various other means which will be noticed more particularly hereafter. But as these funds





JAMES LOGAN.

were not immediately available, it was necessary, in the commencement, to have recourse to a loan; and the trustees accordingly borrowed eight hundred pounds, on their own joint bond.

The next object was to procure a suitable building; and in this they were remarkably fortunate.\* The celebrated Whitefield had arrived in America a few years before this period. Though excluded from the churches of Philadelphia, and compelled to preach in the fields, such was the power of his eloquence, that immense crowds were collected to hear him, and a fervour of religious feeling was excited in the community, of which the annals of the country had afforded no previous example.

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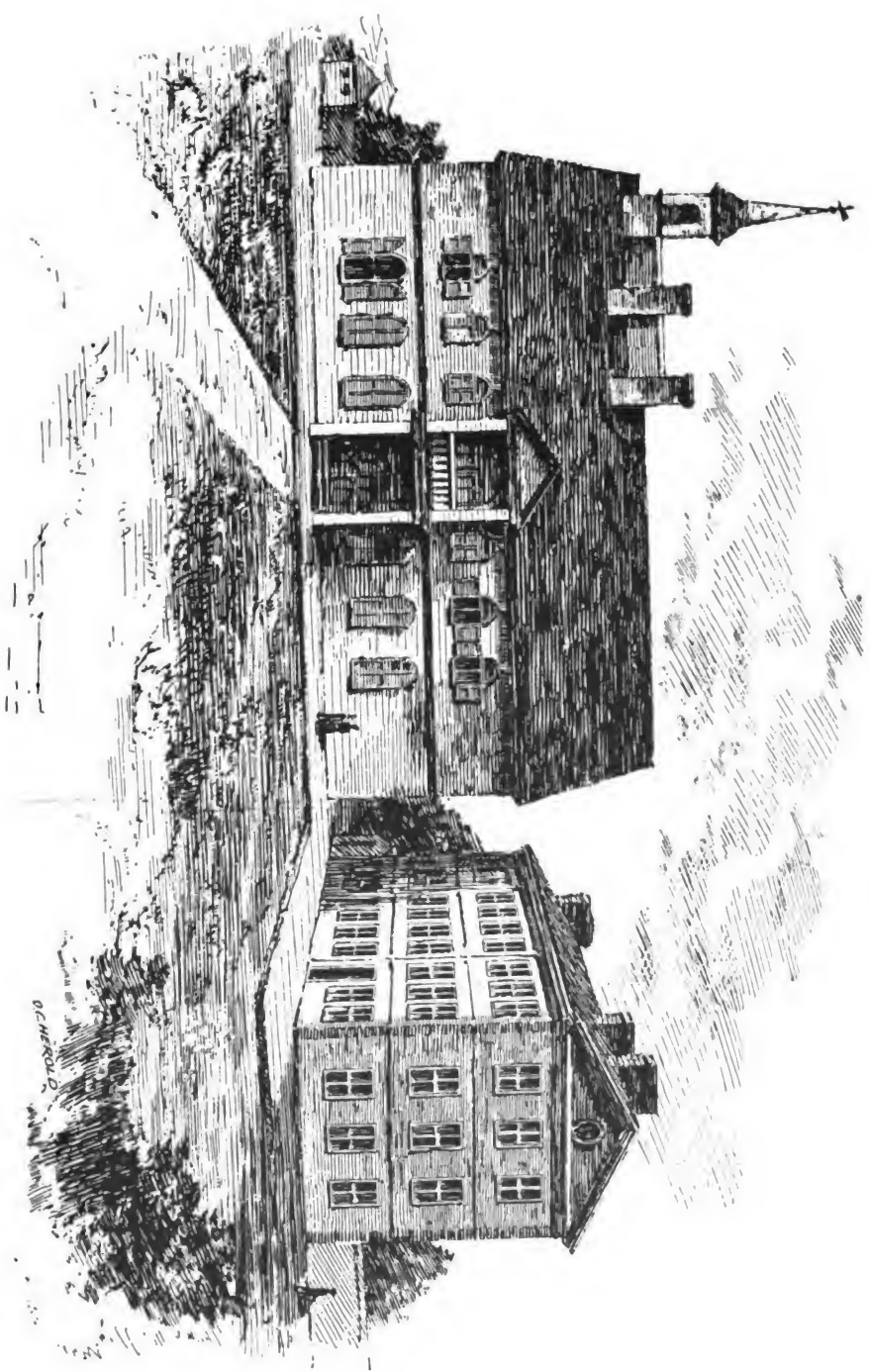
\* I find it mentioned on the minutes of the Board of Trustees, that a lot of ground in Sixth Street was offered to them by James Logan, upon which to erect an academy, "provided it should be built within the term of 14 years." The offer was declined, as "*the new building* was, in all respects, better suited to their present circumstances and future views." The trustees, however, expressed "a most grateful sense of his regard to the academy," and returned him "their sincere thanks for his kind and generous offer."

In this state of the public mind, it was proposed to erect an edifice, which might serve the double purpose of a charity school, and a place of public worship for Whitefield, and other ministers of the gospel, similarly circumstanced. Little difficulty was experienced in obtaining adequate subscriptions; a lot was procured in Fourth, near the corner of Mulberry Street; and a large building was speedily raised, which is still standing, and well known to Philadelphians by the name of *the Academy*.\* At that time, however, it was called *the New Building*, and as people of almost every religious denomination had been concerned in its erection, it was vested in trustees selected from different sects, among whom were Whitefield and Franklin. But the lot having been purchased on ground rent, and money having been borrowed for the completion of the building,

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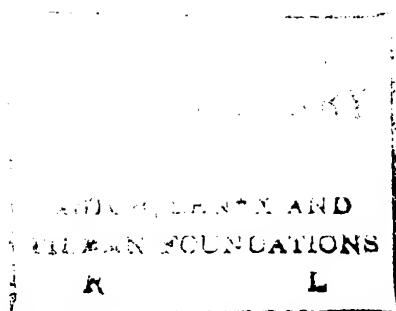
\* It may be proper to state, that one-half of this building has been recently removed, and a church erected on its site by a Society of Methodists.—*December, 1833.*

The church has since been removed.—*Note to the present edition.*



THE ACADEMY,  
WEST SIDE OF FOURTH STREET, BELOW ARCH.

O. H. MERRILL

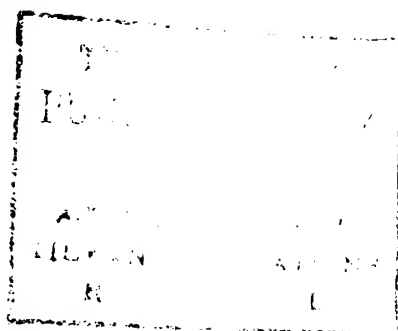


the trustees, after the expiration of a few years, found themselves involved in an increasing debt, which the subsidence of the original enthusiasm left them without the means of discharging. Things were in this condition, when the project of an academy was announced. It was thought that the objects of both establishments might be attained by a combination of their resources; and as Franklin was a member of each body of trustees, an agreement was effected, by his agency, satisfactory to both parties. A conveyance of the new building was made to the trustees of the Academy, on the conditions, that the debt, now amounting to nearly eight hundred pounds, should be discharged; that a free school should be maintained on the premises; and that in the house already built, or in one to be built for the purpose, a place of worship should be set apart for the occasional use of such ministers of the gospel as the trustees might judge qualified to "teach the word of God;" and especially, that its free and uninterrupted use should be permitted to the Rev. Mr. George

Whitefield, "whenever he should happen to be in the city, and desire to preach therein." \* These conditions have been complied with; and to this day a charity school has been maintained, and a room kept open in the building, for the convenience of itinerant preachers. This transaction took place in December, 1749; but, as many alterations were to be made in the edifice to fit it for the new purposes to which it was to be applied, and the trustees were desirous of carrying their design into immediate effect, it became necessary to procure temporary accommodations; and

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\* Mr. Thompson Westcott, in his "Historic Mansions of Philadelphia," says that all the original buildings occupied by the Academy have been removed, and that "a hall was built on the rear portion of the ground, in which a room was dedicated for the use of ministers of the gospel of religious sects, stipulated for when the new building was erected to accommodate Whitefield in 1741. Apartments for the Charity School were also prepared, and those institutions were until lately (1877) held upon the old site, so that after one hundred and thirty-six years a portion of the ground upon which the Academy was built was still devoted to its original purposes,—to free education and to free





WILLIAM ALLEN.

the schools were first opened in a private house.\* It was not till the commencement of the year 1751, that they were introduced into the new hall; on which occasion, the usual solemnities were observed, and a sermon was preached by the Rev. Richard Peters.†

The views of the trustees were at first wisely directed to the communication of that elementary knowledge, which is most essential to the citizens of a rising community, and the acquisition of which is a necessary step towards the attainment of

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speech or religious topics." Since Mr. Westcott wrote, the Charity Schools have been closed, and a number of free scholarships in the University established in their stead. While no portion of the original building remains, the University still holds a small interest in the site of the old Academy.—*Note to the present edition.*

\* In the house of Mr. Allen in Second Street. Westcott's "Historic Mansions of Philadelphia."—*Note to the present edition.*

† This gentleman, though a clergyman, was employed in the secular office of provincial secretary. He was a man of high standing and very considerable influence; and was the successor of Franklin in the presidency of the Board of Trustees.

the higher branches. For the present, therefore, they restricted their establishment within the limits of a simple academy, deferring a further extension of the scheme, till the success of their first efforts should have demonstrated its practicability, and smoothed the way for its accomplishment.

In the Academy were embraced one school for the Latin, one for English, and one for the Mathematics, under the care of three masters with their assistant ushers, the principal of whom had the title of rector. A charity school was also opened, in which the children of poor citizens were instructed gratis. It is worthy of observation, that among the teachers originally employed in the Academy was Charles Thomson, afterwards rendered conspicuous by his office of secretary to the Revolutionary Congress, and venerable in the recollection of Philadelphians for his virtues and abilities, as well as for the advanced age which he attained. He was, during four years, one of the tutors in the Latin school, at the end of which time he left it in pursuit of other business,

having discharged the duties of his office with entire satisfaction to his superiors.

Finding the schools to prosper, and to present a good prospect of permanent usefulness, the trustees resolved to apply for a charter, which was readily granted them by the proprietors. By this instrument, which bears date July 13th, 1753, they were incorporated by the name of the "Trustees of the Academy and Charitable School in the Province of Pennsylvania."

A continuance of prosperity soon induced them to extend their views beyond the limits within which they had originally restricted themselves. To the branches before taught, were now added Logic, Rhetoric, Natural and Moral Philosophy; and it was as a teacher of these sciences that the Rev. Wm. Smith, who in the future became highly distinguished, was introduced into the institution.\* The study of the Greek language was joined with that

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\* For further details concerning Dr. Smith, see supplementary chapter to the present edition.

of Latin ; and, a course of instruction having thus been adopted equal in extent to that usually pursued in the highest seminaries, nothing more was requisite to place the Academy of Philadelphia on the footing of a collegiate establishment, than the right of assuming the title, and the privilege of conferring degrees upon the students. The hope of obtaining collegiate honours has always exercised a powerful influence over the youthful mind ; and every seminary, however extensive may be its plan, and whatever the qualifications of the teachers, must labour under great disadvantages, if destitute of that command over the diligence of its pupils, with which the power of giving or withholding these honours invests it. As the effects of this deficiency of the Academy began to be experienced in the desertion of some of the best students, who sought in other seminaries that testimonial of their proficiency which was denied them in their own, it was recommended by the teachers to the Board of Trustees, that application should be made for such additions to their

charter as might invest them with the rights of a collegiate body. The application was accordingly made; and an additional charter was granted by the proprietors, dated June 16th, 1755, by which the former style of the board was changed into that of "The Trustees of the College, Academy, and Charitable School of Philadelphia," and all the powers conferred upon them which are usually attached to such a title. The condition, however, was annexed to this charter, that the trustees and professors, before entering on the performance of their offices, should respectively take and subscribe the customary oaths or affirmations of allegiance to the King of Great Britain.

## CHAPTER II.

## ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT OF THE COLLEGE.—FIRST GRADUATES.—PROSPERITY OF THE COLLEGE.

It may not be amiss to describe more particularly the organization and mode of government of the institution, at this period. It consisted of three departments, those of the College, Academy, and Charity Schools, the last of which, however, was connected with the two former in no other way than as it was under the authority of the same board of trustees. The College and Academy were much less distinct. They were not only connected through the medium of the trustees, but were managed by the same faculty of professors; and the students belonging to the two departments were often mingled together in the same classes. The distinction seems to have been simply this, that those pupils whose

object was to go through a regular course of instruction, and ultimately receive the honour of graduation, were considered as members of the College; those who attained merely the English and mathematical schools, without pursuing classical or philosophical studies, as members of the Academy; and they were associated under the same teachers only when engaged in those subjects which were common to all. By this arrangement, while young men desirous of a liberal education, either as a preparation for entering upon one of the learned professions, or simply as an accomplishment, were provided with the means of attaining it, others, of humbler views, and with more limited resources, were enabled to acquire a degree of knowledge suitable to their future prospects. The plan was well adapted to the condition of the country at a time when schools, even of the inferior kind, were scarce, and it was desirable to effect much at as little expense as possible. At a subsequent period, however, this complexity of arrangement operated to the disadvantage of the higher

branch of the seminary, both by taking away that unity of object, which in this, as well as all other pursuits, is essential to the greatest success, and by producing on the public mind an impression, that the whole institution was calculated rather for primary instruction than for completing the education of youth.

In the collegiate department was a grammar school, in which boys were taught the rudiments of the learned languages, previously to their entrance into the regular classes of the College. Of these classes there were only three, the freshman, junior, and senior; and the term of study was confined to the same number of years. Experience has shown that this period is too short for the attainment of the requisite knowledge by youth of ordinary abilities and industry; and, in the competition which afterwards arose among the numerous colleges of this country, the arrangement was injurious to the interests of the school of Philadelphia. But, at first, no disadvantage was experienced; and, perhaps, the prospect of a speedy comple-

tion of the preparatory studies tended to favour its success at a time, when it was necessary for young men to commence the business of life at as early a period as possible.

The College and Academy were under the immediate direction of a faculty, composed of the professors, of whom the principal had the title of provost, and the second in authority, that of vice-provost and rector of the Academy. The professors, five in number, were assisted, when necessary, by ushers, who were possessed of no authority in the government of the institution. The duties of the faculty were, to meet occasionally, and inquire into the condition of the schools, and conduct of the scholars; to see that the laws were observed, and the plans of education carried into effect; and, when any deficiency in the arrangements of the institution was observable, to propose such regulation for the sanction of the trustees, as they might deem likely to be conducive to its prosperity.

On the charitable foundation, there were

two schools, one for boys, and another for girls, which were taught respectively by a master and mistress, with occasional assistants. The boys were instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic ; the girls in reading, writing, and sewing. The schools were under the immediate care of the trustees, to whom applications for admittance were to be made. The number of charity scholars was seldom much short of one hundred.

The whole property and government of the institution were, by the charter, vested in the Board of Trustees, which retained its original constitution. In conferring the powers before mentioned upon the faculty of the College and Academy, the trustees reserved to themselves the exclusive privileges of making laws ; of appointing all the officers of the seminary ; of inflicting on the students the severer punishments of degradation, suspension, and expulsion ; of conferring the ordinary and honorary degrees ; and, finally, of deciding in all matters of high importance to the institution. But in everything which related to

the students, though, for fear of abuse, they thus reserved the power in their own hands, they generally decided according to the recommendation of the faculty, whose better opportunities of forming an accurate judgment entitled them to this deference.\*

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\* The names of the first trustees have been mentioned in a previous note. The following is a list of those who were subsequently elected members of the board, up to the period of its dissolution. They are given in the order of their election. It will be observed that the highest station, influence, and talent in the Province, were secured in the government of the College.

Isaac Norris, Thomas Cadwalader, James Hamilton, Alexander Stedman, John Mifflin, Benjamin Chew, Edward Shippen, Jr., William Coxe, Thomas Willing, Jacob Duché, Jr., Lynford Lardner, Amos Strettell, Andrew Elliott, John Redman, John Penn, John Lawrence, John Allen, Isaac Jones, Richard Penn, Samuel Powell, Thomas Mifflin, William White, James Tilghman, Robert Morris, Francis Hopkinson, George Clymer, Alexander Wilcox, John Cadwalader, and James Wilson.

It has been mentioned that Dr. Franklin was the first president of the board. He was succeeded in that office by the Rev. Richard Peters, who was first elected in the year 1756, and was annually re elected until the year 1764, when the state of his health rendering his absence from the country requisite, his place was supplied by the Hon. James Hamilton, then governor of

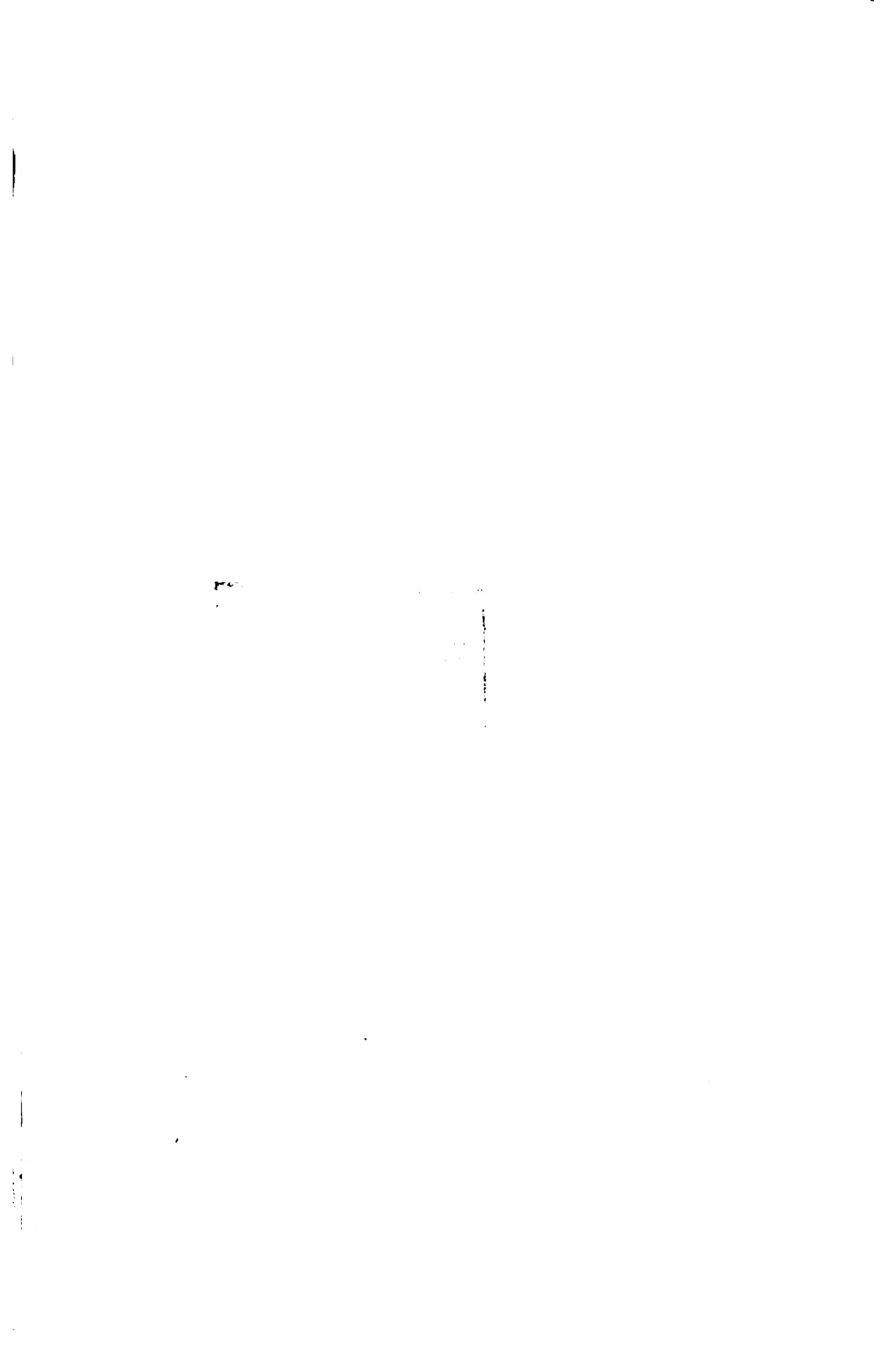
The first commencement of the College took place on the 17th of May, 1757, when its honours were conferred on seven young men who had completed their education within its walls. The names of these earliest graduates were Paul Jackson, Jacob Duché, Francis Hopkinson,\* Samuel Magaw, Hugh Williamson, James Latta, and John Morgan.

From this period, the institution rose

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the Province. Mr. Hamilton having gone to England during the same year, the Hon. John Penn, who succeeded him as governor, was appointed to the presidency of the board. In the year 1771, Mr. Penn left the province, and Mr. Hamilton, having returned, was re-elected. At the time of the dissolution of the board, the Hon. Richard Penn, who followed Mr. Hamilton as governor, filled the office of its president.

\* With regard to Mr. Hopkinson, the following is an extract from the minutes of the Board of Trustees, of May 20th, 1766: "It was resolved, that, as Francis Hopkinson, Esq., who was the first scholar in this seminary at its opening, and likewise one of the first who received a degree, was about to embark for England, and has done honour to the place of his education by his abilities and good morals, as well as rendered it many substantial services on all public occasions, the thanks of this institution ought to be delivered to him, in the most affectionate and respectful manner."



Omnibus ad quos presentes Littere

Nos, Praefectus, Vice-Praefectus  
Philadelphienfis, testumur, Franciscum  
humanioribus Literis, Philosophia, & Siquentia apud nos  
peracto, in Aula nostra, morum-Curatoribus, multisque aliis  
omnibus hinc Studiosis satis versatum abunde comprobasse  
Mense Aprili 1757 celebratis, Baccalaureatus Gradum esse  
concessum & Academiae Sigillo munitis, singulorum  
Datum Philadelphiae 18<sup>mo</sup>



DIPLOMA OF FRANCIS HOPKINSON, MEMBER OF THE FIRST  
THE FIRST PUPIL IN THE AC

teræ pervenerint Salutem

Reverendissimi & Professores Collegii & Academiae  
Hopkinson, probum ac ingenuum Adolescentem  
nos felicitatem incubuisse; ac postquam, Cursu sui spatii  
aliis Civibus Dignisseries, ad Examen revocatus, se in-  
spect, ex Curatorum mandato, in Publicis Comitibus 17 mo aet  
consecutum. In cuius rei Testimonium, his Literis, Majori  
nomina Subscripsimus.

Die Maii, 1757.

Gul: Smith Prof. Coll. Acad.  
Fran: Alison Colleg. Vice Prof. & Acad. Rectoe  
Ben: Skinnerley J. Angl. & Orat. Prof.  
Theophilus Grew Math. Prof.  
Paulus Johnson D. P.

ST CLASS GRADUATED AT THE COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA.  
ACADEMY OF PHILADELPHIA.



rapidly in importance. The extent and liberality of its plan, conjoined with the excellence of its management, secured it the patronage of the neighbouring population; and it soon acquired a celebrity which attracted numerous students from the distant colonies. From Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas, it received much support; and even in the West Indies, many planters preferred it, for the education of their children, to the schools of England. Among the individuals who at various times received its honours, were many who afterwards attained great distinction in their professional, literary, or political career, and thus contributed to spread and exalt its reputation. Both in the advantages which it offered, and the actual support which it received, it was, perhaps, unrivalled, certainly not surpassed by any other seminary at that time existing in the Provinces. Only two years after the charter was granted, the number of pupils in the institution amounted to about three hundred, one-third of whom were members of the collegiate depart-

ment.\* In the year 1763, according to a statement made by the provost, nearly four hundred individuals were receiving their education in the various branches of the seminary. To appreciate fully the prosperity to be implied from this extensive support, we must take into consideration the limited population and wealth of the country at that period, and must recollect that the colonies had just emerged from a long and cruel war, which had ravaged their borders, exhausted their resources, and even threatened the subversion of their liberties.

The students who came from a distance were, at first, on the same footing with those who resided permanently in the city. Boarding separately, wherever their own inclination, or that of their friends might prompt, they attended the schools during

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\* In a list of the pupils in the English school, made in the commencement of the year 1757, I observed the name of Lindley Murray; in all probability the same with that Lindley Murray who has acquired so much fame as the author of the best English Grammar, and who recently died in England.

the regular hours, but, in the intervals, had the complete control of their own time and conduct. Inconveniences were thought to arise from this arrangement, which led to the proposition, that a house should be built in the vicinity of the college, sufficiently large for the accommodation of the students from other provinces and the West Indies, where they might be more immediately beneath the eye of the professors, more convenient to the schools, and, at the same time, boarded at less expense than in private families. The trustees, to enable themselves to effect this purpose, without encroaching upon their capital, which was then very small, issued proposals for a lottery; by which, as the contemplated measure was generally approved, they succeeded, in a short time, in raising a sum exceeding two thousand pounds. This was immediately applied to the proposed object; and, in the year 1762, a suitable building was erected on a lot of ground belonging to the trustees, on the north side of the college, where it still stands. The lower story was appropriated

to the charity schools, the remainder of the house to the reception of students, who were placed under the care of a steward,\* and were subjected to such rules as were deemed necessary to maintain order, and promote their health, comfort, and morals. This plan, though not attended with all those advantages which had been anticipated, had been carried into effect at too great an expense of money and trouble to be hastily abandoned; and it appears to have been continued, till the operations of the College were suspended during the war of the revolution.

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\* Mr. Kinnersley, one of the professors, performed for many years the duties of steward.

## CHAPTER III.

## PROVOST AND PROFESSORS OF THE COLLEGE.

As the success of the institution was attributable more to the diligence and abilities of the professors, than, perhaps, to any other cause, we should be doing injustice to their deserts, as well as presenting a very incomplete view of the school itself, were we to pass over, without particular notice, the most prominent among the gentlemen who filled the collegiate chairs.

The first provost, the Rev. Dr. William Smith, was eminent for his various learning and general ability. Many yet living can bear witness to his eloquence as a preacher; and his published works exhibit, in a very favourable light, his powers of composition. Born and educated in Great Britain, he emigrated to this coun-

try about the commencement of the year 1754, and, soon after his arrival, was employed in the Academy to teach those higher branches, which were at that time introduced into its course of studies. In the performance of this duty, he acquitted himself so well, and, in other respects, gave so much satisfaction to the trustees, that, when the institution assumed the form of a college, he was unanimously chosen to fill the office of provost. Thus placed at the head of the seminary, he not only employed in its support the talents for teaching with which he was eminently endowed, but also exerted himself, with much zeal and success, in enlarging its pecuniary resources. Though, for a time, rendered unpopular with the predominant party, by interfering in those contentions between the legislature and the governors which formed the principal feature in the local politics of the Province, he was yet enabled by his talents to command the respect of the public; and in Great Britain, such was the esteem in which he was held that, on a visit he was induced to make to

that country, in the year 1759, to escape the resentment of the Pennsylvania Legislature, he was received into the highest society, and, at the recommendation of the Archbishop of Canterbury and several of the principal bishops, was honoured, by the University of Oxford, with the degree of Doctor of Divinity.\* The circumstance which exposed him to the ill-will of a numerous party at home, secured him the favour of the proprietors and their friends; and by the influence which he possessed in England, he was enabled, at a subsequent period, very materially to promote the interests of the College. His exertions in its favour were indeed such as frequently called forth the decided approbation of the trustees; and, though absent on several occasions, and at one time put under arrest by the legislature, his talents and influence were thought so essential to the prosperity of the school,

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\* At a subsequent period the same honour was conferred on him by the Universities of Aberdeen and Dublin.

that he was always maintained in his station, and teachers, when necessary, were temporarily employed to supply his place. On the occasion of his arrest, the classes under his care were directed to attend him at his place of confinement. As the events of Dr. Smith's life are intimately connected with the history of the institution over which he presided, we shall have more than one opportunity of again alluding to them, in the details which follow.

The office of vice-provost and rector of the Academy was occupied by the Rev. Dr. Francis Allison. This gentleman had been long engaged in the business of instruction, and was among the first who established regular schools in the Province. That he must have acquired considerable eminence as a teacher, is evinced by the fact, that, at a time when honorary degrees were in much higher esteem than at present, that of Doctor of Divinity was spontaneously conferred upon him by the University of Glasgow. Before his election to the vice-provostship, he had for several years been attached to the Academy as

rector, and master of the Latin school.\* As in the case of Dr. Smith, his election was unanimous; and the names of both these gentlemen, with their respective titles, were, by direction of the trustees, inserted in the charter of the College. Their duties, as professors, were to preside over the philosophical studies of the different classes, and Dr. Allison assisted also in teaching the languages. For more than twenty years they were the main supports of the institution, with which they remained connected up to the period of that change in its affairs which was brought about during the troubles of the revolution.

Of the other members of the faculty, the Rev. Ebenezer Kinnersley, professor of English and oratory, was perhaps the most conspicuous. Having been associated with Franklin in the prosecution of his investigations into the subject of electricity, he

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\* The first rector of the Academy was a Mr. Martin, who died very suddenly, soon after his appointment, and was succeeded by Dr. Allison, who then resided in Chester County, and was invited by the trustees to fill the vacant place.

acquired a taste for that science, which induced him to procure a set of apparatus, calculated to exhibit an exemplification of its newly discovered principles, by varied and pleasing experiments. Thus provided, and at the time engaged in no other employment, he was prevailed on by Franklin to exhibit these experiments publicly, and to accompany them with explanatory lectures; the first, probably, which were delivered on a scientific subject in Philadelphia. The plan succeeded so much to his satisfaction, that he made a journey through the most of the colonies, delivering his lectures in the capital towns, and even visited the West Indies on the same errand. In an article of the *American Magazine* for October, 1758, written, there is every reason to believe, by Dr. Smith, it is stated, that Mr. Kinnersley was "the chief inventor of the electrical apparatus, as well as author of a considerable part of those discoveries in electricity published by Mr. Franklin, to whom he communicated them. Indeed," the author of the paper goes on to say, "Mr. Franklin himself mentions his

name with honour, though he has not been careful enough to distinguish between their particular discoveries. This, perhaps, he may have thought needless, as they were known to act in concert. But though that circumstance was known here, it was not so in the remote parts of the world to which the fame of these discoveries has extended." Coming, as this account probably does, from one so closely associated with the subject of it as the provost of the College must have been with one of the professors, it may be received as the statement of Mr. Kinnersley himself. It must, however, be confessed, that Franklin, in his Memoirs, has admitted no claim of this or any other person to a participation in the discoveries which he made and announced; but merely states that he resorted to the assistance of Mr. Kinnersley, as a neighbour and man of leisure, in the performance of his experiments. The electrical apparatus collected by Mr. Kinnersley must have been extensive; for, after his death, it was purchased by the trustees of the college, according to a valuation made

by impartial and well qualified judges, for the sum of five hundred pounds.\* Mr. Kinnersley was introduced into the institution in the year 1753, as the successor of David James Dove, who was the first teacher of the English school. In 1772, the state of his health rendering a voyage to a warm climate advisable, he resigned his station, after having performed his duties for the space of nineteen years.

The professorship of the languages was originally filled by Paul Jackson, who, in the year 1758, left the institution on account of ill health, and was succeeded by John Beveridge. This gentleman had, when young, taught a grammar school in Edinburgh, under the patronage of the celebrated Ruddiman, from whom, as well as from other men of note, he brought with him to this country strong testimonials both of his ability and good conduct. When invited to connect himself with the Philadel-

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\* It is proper to state that this estimate was made during the revolution, at a period when the legal currency had very much depreciated.

phia College, he was residing at Hartford, in Connecticut, where he had for some time been conducting a private Latin school with great success. As a classical scholar he was thought to be inferior to none in the colonies. Some of his compositions in Latin are still extant in our older magazines, and evince a familiarity with that language, which, with his long habit of teaching, must have well qualified him for his station in the College. Upon his death in 1767, James Davidson, who had previously kept a school in Newark, was appointed to the professorship.

Of the earliest mathematical professor, very little seems to be known. His name was Theophilus Grew, and it would appear, from a slight notice contained in an article of the American Magazine before alluded to, that he had "long been an approved teacher of mathematics and astronomy" in Philadelphia.\* He was attached to the in-

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\* In 1751 he calculated the Barbadoes Almanac for 1752, which was published by Franklin, and in 1753 wrote "The Description and Use of the Globes, Celestial and Terrestrial, etc. Chiefly Designed for the

stitution at its origin, and continued so till his death in 1759. Hugh Williamson, a graduate of the school, succeeded to his station.\*

This brief account of the early professors will not be thought misplaced by those who feel an interest in the spread of learning, science, and the arts of civilization in a young country, and are willing to do justice to those who made the promotion of this object the business of their lives.

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Instruction of the Young Gentlemen at the Academy in Philadelphia, etc. Printed by Christopher Sower.”  
—*Note to the present edition.*

\* The subsequent career of Hugh Williamson is so well known that it is only necessary to say that he was the same individual who represented North Carolina in the Federal Convention of 1787.—*Note to the present edition.*

## CHAPTER IV.

## ORIGIN OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

THOUGH the College of Philadelphia was later in its origin than some similar institutions in the older settlements, it may nevertheless boast the honour of having established a medical school, the first in point of time, as it has always been the greatest in merit and success of all upon this continent. It does not come within the design of the present sketch, to give even a very general account of the rise, progress, and ultimate prosperity of this department of the College, which of itself affords a subject so distinct and copious, as well to deserve a separate and minute consideration.\* We may, however, be

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\* It is scarcely necessary to say, that this want has been recently supplied by a History of the Medical Department of the University, written with great fulness

allowed to notice a few circumstances, connected with the earliest period of its history.\*

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of detail, and all the pains-taking accuracy characteristic of its author, Jos. Carson, M.D., now Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy in the University.—*Note to the edition of 1872.*

\* The following extract of a letter from James Logan to Colonel Hunter, Governor of New York, dated 5th month 1st, 1717-18, contains the earliest account we have seen of a proposition to deliver medical lectures in Philadelphia. The individual referred to was Dr. Colden.

“All I know of that bill is only this. He came to me one day, to desire my opinion of a proposal to get an Act of Assembly for an allowance to him as physician for the poor of this place. I told him I thought very well of the thing, but doubted whether it could be brought to bear in the House. Not long after, R. Hill showed me a bill for this purpose, put into his hands by the governor, with two farther provisions in it, which were, that a public physical lecture should be held in Philadelphia, to the support of which every unmarried man, above the age of twenty-one years, should pay six shillings and eight-pence or an English crown yearly, and that the corpses of all persons whatever that died here, should be visited by an appointed physician, who should receive for his trouble three shillings and four-pence. These things I owned were very commendable, but doubted our Assembly would never go into them, that of the lecture especially.”

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

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WILLIAM SHIPPEN, M.D.

By a letter from Dr. William Shippen to the Board of Trustees, written in September, 1765, it appears that the institution of a medical school in this city had long been a favourite object with him, and that in an introductory lecture to a course of anatomy, delivered three years previously to the date of the letter, he had publicly announced his belief in the expediency and practicability of the measure. Having, when in England, communicated his plan to Dr. John Morgan,\* who was then prosecuting his medical studies in that country, he had resolved to postpone any attempt to carry it into effect, till the return of that gentleman should afford an opportunity of securing his co-operation. In the mean time, however, Dr. Morgan had interested in favour of the project several influential individuals in England; and it was proposed that a school of medicine should be engrafted on the Philadelphia College, the pro-

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\* The gentleman already mentioned among the first graduates of the College.

fessors to be appointed, and the degrees to be conferred, as in the other department. Among those who exhibited the strongest interest in the affair were Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Peters, former presidents of the board, at that time residing in Great Britain, and Thomas Penn, the proprietary of Pennsylvania; from all of whom Dr. Morgan, on his return to Philadelphia, brought letters to the trustees, strongly advising the adoption of his plan, and recommending the Doctor himself to their choice, as one of the professors.\* These letters were presented to

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\* The following is the letter from Mr. Penn, extracted from the minutes of the Board of Trustees.

“Dr. Morgan has laid before me a proposal for introducing new professorships into the College, for the instruction of all such as shall incline to go into the study and practice of physic and surgery, as well as the several occupations attending upon these necessary and useful arts. He thinks his scheme, if patronized by the trustees, will at present give reputation and strength to the institution, and though it may for some time occasion a small expense, yet after a little while it will gradually support itself, and even make considerable additions to the Academy funds.

“Dr. Morgan has employed his time in an assiduous

the board at a special meeting, accompanied with a written proposal from Dr. Morgan, "setting forth his plan of opening medical schools under the patronage

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search after knowledge, in all the branches necessary for the practice of his profession, and has gained such esteem and love from persons of the first rank in it, that as they very much approve his plan, they will from time to time, as he assures us, give him their countenance and assistance in the execution of it. We are made acquainted with what is proposed to be taught, and how lectures may be adopted by you, and since the like systems have brought much advantage to every plan where they have been received, and such learned and eminent men speak favourably of the Doctor's plan, I could not but in the most kind manner recommend him to you, and desire that he may be well received, and what he has to offer be taken, with all becoming respect and expedition, into your most serious consideration, and if it shall be thought necessary to go into it, and thereupon to offer professorships, that he may be taken into your service.

"When you have heard him, and duly considered what he has to lay before you, you will be best able to judge in what manner you can serve the public, the institution, and the particular design now recommended to you.

"I am, gentlemen,

"Your affectionate friend,

"THOMAS PENN.

"LONDON, *February 15th, 1765.*"

and government of the College, and intimating his desire to be appointed professor of the theory and practice of physic." The trustees approved the scheme, and, "entertaining a high sense of Dr. Morgan's abilities, and the honours paid to him by different learned bodies and societies in Europe," unanimously appointed him to the office for which he applied. The date of this event, the 3d of May, 1765, is deserving of commemoration, as the birth-day, in America, of that system of medical education, which has been carried to such high perfection, and has so powerfully tended to advance the profession in knowledge, reputation, and usefulness.

In the following September, Dr. Wm. Shippen, upon application to the board, was unanimously chosen professor of anatomy and surgery. Dr. Adam Kuhn was afterwards made professor of botany and materia medica, and Dr. Benjamin Rush, of chemistry. This last appointment was preceded by a letter from the proprietors to the trustees, written at the request of Dr. Fothergill, recommending

Dr. Rush to their notice as an expert chemist, and requesting their acceptance of a suitable chemical apparatus. At the same time that instruction was given to the students by these gentlemen in their respective branches, a course of clinical lectures was delivered by Dr. Thomas Bond, in the Pennsylvania Hospital.

In the year 1767, a system of rules was adopted, necessary for the proper organization of this new school. Two grades of medical honours were established, corresponding with those in the department of the arts and sciences. The qualifications for the first degree, or that of Bachelor in Medicine, were a competent acquaintance with the Latin language, and with those branches of mathematics and natural philosophy which were deemed necessary prerequisites to a good medical education; the serving of a sufficient apprenticeship with some reputable practitioner of physic; a general knowledge of pharmacy; and finally, an attendance upon at least one complete course of lectures, and on the practice of the hospital for one year. To

obtain the degree of Doctor of Medicine, it was necessary that the applicant should have been a Bachelor of Medicine for at least three years, should have attained the age of twenty-four, should write a thesis, and, except in cases of absence abroad, or in some distant part of the colonies, should defend this thesis publicly in the College. It will be perceived that this system differs materially from that now in operation ; and the modern has, in several respects, a decided advantage. Perhaps it would have been well to preserve that regulation which demanded a previous knowledge of the Latin language, the neglect of which is too common among medical students of the present day.

The first medical commencement was held on the 21st of June, 1768, when the following gentlemen received their bachelor's degree:—John Archer of Newcastle County, Benjamin Cowell of Bucks, Samuel Duffield and Jonathan Potts of Philadelphia, Jonathan Elmer of New Jersey, Humphrey Fullerton of Lancaster County, David Jackson of Chester County, John

Lawrence of East Jersey, James Tilton of Kent County on Delaware, and Nicholas Way of Wilmington.

Such was the origin of a school, which, by the talents and industry of its successive teachers, has attained a station little inferior to that of the most celebrated in Europe ; which has for a long time diffused medical knowledge, in copious streams, over the whole of this widely extended country, and given birth to numerous similar institutions, emulous of their parent school in honour and usefulness ; which, while it affords to its officers a dignity in rank and an affluence in subsistence beyond any other private association on the continent, at the same time imparts to the city in which it is located, a degree of prosperity and reputation which the most sanguine of its founders never ventured to anticipate from its operations.

## CHAPTER V.

## FINANCES OF THE COLLEGE.

OUR view of the College would be incomplete without some account of its financial concerns. The original fund with which the trustees ventured on their undertaking was the sum of two thousand pounds, payable in five annual instalments, subscribed by the individual members of the board. To this sum a very considerable addition was soon made by subscriptions, on the same terms, obtained among the inhabitants of the city; and the resources of the institution were afterwards augmented by donations\* and legacies, by

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\* I observed in the minutes of the board, an acknowledgment of the receipt of one hundred pounds from "a company of comedians," being the profits of a play which they had represented for the benefit of the free school. The collection of so considerable a sum, on such an occasion, is a singular evidence either of the

public collections in churches\* and at the commencements, and by the proceeds of lotteries.† From these various sources, in the course of twelve years from the first establishment of the Academy, the amount derived was not less than seven thousand pounds sterling; and, if to this be added the profits of tuition, and benefactions from the proprietors in money and land, to the value of at least three thousand pounds, received during the same period, there will

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charity, or of the play-going propensities of those times. It seems that this mode of increasing their revenue did not meet with the unanimous approbation of the trustees, for it is stated in the minutes that a *majority* were in favour of receiving the donation.

\* The sermons of Whitefield were most productive. One which he preached at the request of the trustees, for the benefit of the charity schools, and for which they returned him "their sincere and hearty thanks," yielded more than one hundred pounds.

† Considerable opposition was made to this mode of raising money; and, at one time, a law was passed prohibiting lotteries altogether: but it was soon afterwards repealed. Six or seven lotteries were at various times set on foot for the benefit of the institution; from two of which, upwards of four thousand pounds, currency, were collected.

appear to have been no deficiency of funds for carrying the designs of the founders of the seminary into full effect. Of the donations from the proprietors, five hundred pounds accompanied their grant of the first charter, and nearly three thousand acres of land, situated in Bucks County, being the fourth part of the manor of Perkasio, were conveyed to the trustees by Thomas Penn, on the condition that, if the institution should fail of success, the land should revert to himself or his heirs. The fee simple of this land was, at a subsequent period, vested in the trustees, and the farms into which it was divided were sold upon mortgage; but as the conditions of the sale were not complied with, the greater number of them have reverted to the institution, and now constitute a part of the real estate of the University of Pennsylvania.

Though the resources of the College were amply sufficient to meet all the immediate demands upon them, and, at the end of twelve years, a considerable surplus remained in the hands of the trustees, besides the clear possession of the college

London February 2<sup>d</sup> 1753.

You are hereby required to pay to the Trustees of  
the Academy and Charitable School in the City of  
Philadelphia the Sum of Five hundred Pounds Current  
Money of Pennsylvania as our Benefaction towards  
that Charitable Establishment, and place it to account  
of Charges, for which this shall be your Warrant  
Given under my Hand this Second Day of February  
One thousand seven hundred & fifty three

To Richard Hockley & Edmund Burich  
our Receivers General, or to our Receiver General  
for the time being at Philadelphia

THOMAS PENN.

7 Aug<sup>r</sup> 1753

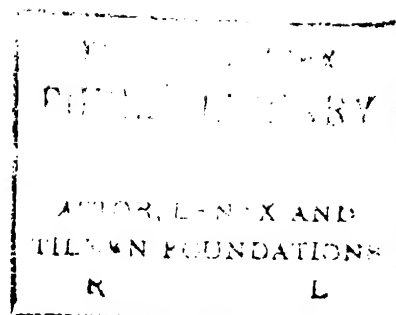
Please to pay the above to the Receiver  
General for the Trustees of the Academy

To Mess<sup>rs</sup> Hockley &  
Physicians

Richard Peters

Received the same day the above Five hundred Pounds  
for the Trustees of the Academy  
August 7. 1753. —

Wm. Coleman



ground and buildings, yet, as the interest accruing from this surplus, even with the addition of the receipts for tuition, would by no means be adequate to the proper support of the school, which would, therefore, still be left dependent upon the precarious supplies of private contributions and lotteries, it was thought advisable to look about for some means of procuring such a sum of money, as, when united to that already possessed, and constituted into a permanent fund, might yield a fixed and certain income, adequate to all the wants of the institution. Too much had already been contributed by the citizens to justify an expectation that this object would be accomplished by a further appeal to their public spirit; and the legislature of the Province wanted either the ability or inclination to yield any assistance. The attention of the trustees was, therefore, directed abroad; and as Dr. Smith, on his return from Europe, had reported that many of the best and most influential personages in England were favourably disposed to the institution, it was determined to seek, from

the liberality of the mother country, those supplies which were not to be obtained in the colonies. The numerous and highly respectable acquaintance which the provost had formed, and the esteem in which he was held in Great Britain, naturally designated him as the most suitable person to act as the representative of the trustees on this occasion; and they accordingly requested him to undertake, in that capacity, another voyage across the Atlantic, promising the payment of all his expenses, and the continuance, during his absence, of the salary attached to the provostship. Dr. Smith cheerfully complied with the request; and, being furnished with the proper written power, sailed for England, where he arrived early in the year 1762. Persons of very high station and authority became interested in the success of his mission; and it was recommended, in order that the application from the trustees might come with greater weight, and the charity be rendered more universal, that a royal brief should be obtained, authorizing a collection to be made throughout the kingdom.

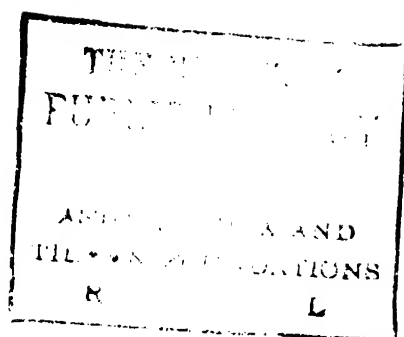
Some embarrassment, however, was at first experienced in consequence of a similar application from the College of New York, which, it was feared, if urged in opposition to that from Philadelphia, would materially interfere with its success, and, by the disgust which such rivalry is apt to excite, would operate greatly to the disadvantage of both schools. To remedy this inconvenience, Dr. Smith was induced, by the advice of his friends, to unite with Dr. Jay, the agent from New York, in a joint application, agreeing to share with him equally all the advantages which might result. An event very favourable to their purpose was at this juncture offered in the birth of a prince; and to his present Majesty, George the Fourth, is perhaps, in some measure, owing the favour which their project experienced from his royal father. On so joyful an occasion, the king and his council could not refuse their countenance to a work of benevolence; and not only was a brief, as ample in the powers it conferred as they could desire, procured, but his Majesty was pleased to

give them also the influence of his example by himself becoming a contributor. The agents were not backward in availing themselves of the opportunity thus afforded them ; and their success was even superior to their expectations. Dividing the country between them, they travelled throughout England ; visited many parts of Scotland and Ireland ; and, where they could not themselves be present, employed the services of friends, and endeavoured to make a favourable impression by the distribution of circular letters, setting forth the nature of the charity, and strongly urging its claims upon the favour of the benevolent. Dr. Smith was especially remarked for his indefatigable exertion and skilful management. So highly, indeed, were his services appreciated by the trustees, that they not only took every opportunity of conveying to him the strongest expression of their approbation and confidence, but, on his return, received him, at a meeting of the board called for that special purpose, with the highest marks of satisfaction and respect, and unanimously voted him their

thanks for the "great zeal, diligence, ability, and address which he had shown in the management of this collection." At a subsequent meeting, they gave him a still stronger testimony of their consideration in the grant of one hundred pounds a year, which was to be considered, "not as an addition to the salary of provost, but solely as a reward for his personal services in England." The individuals in Great Britain who most interested themselves in this affair of the two Colleges, and whose influence, both in obtaining the brief, and afterwards in promoting the collection, was of most importance, were the Archbishop of Canterbury, primate of the English church; the Rev. Dr. Chandler, who was considered at the head of the dissenting interest; and Thomas and Richard Penn, the proprietors of the Province, who themselves contributed five hundred pounds. To these gentlemen letters had been originally written by the trustees, requesting their aid; and their exertions, particularly those of the Archbishop and of Dr. Chandler, were the more praiseworthy, as it was

expressly understood that the objects of the College were not to promote any sectarian interests, but that its doors were open indiscriminately to individuals of every religious persuasion, whether in the capacity of officers, or of students. The collection was completed by the end of the year 1763, and the share of it which fell to the Philadelphia College amounted to more than six thousand pounds sterling. According to the original intention of the trustees, this sum was considered as a permanent fund, of which the interest only was to be applied to the purposes of the College; and the different portions of it, as they were received, were immediately invested in the best securities, generally in mortgages accompanied with a bond and judgment.

The finances of the College might now be considered in a good condition; as the income from its real estate and other investments, united with the money for tuition, and the casual receipts from various sources, were sufficient for its support. No further efforts, therefore, were for some





JOHN MORGAN, M.D.

time made to augment its permanent fund ; but as it was highly desirable that the institution should be wholly independent of precarious supplies, and some inconvenience was occasionally experienced from the emptiness of the treasury, the trustees, about ten years after their application to the British nation, resolved to set on foot another subscription in the colonies. Their first attempt was made in South Carolina, where the College was well known, and many wealthy individuals were supposed to be willing to contribute liberally towards its maintenance. Nor were their expectations disappointed. During a short visit which Dr. Smith was induced, at the request of the board, to make to Charleston, in the winter of 1771-2, he succeeded, without much difficulty, in procuring a large subscription, from which upwards of one thousand pounds sterling was ultimately realized. In the following spring, a proposition was made to institute a collection in the West Indies ; and Dr. Morgan, one of the medical professors, having expressed a willingness to undertake the

business, received from the board the necessary authority, and soon afterwards sailed for Jamaica. In this island alone, to which, on account of great losses sustained by a severe hurricane in other parts of the English West Indies, he was directed to confine his exertions, the subscriptions amounted to six thousand pounds, of the Jamaica currency. How much of this was actually collected, I have not been able to ascertain. A large portion of it was probably lost, in consequence of the confusion in which the affairs of the colonies were subsequently involved. It appears, however, from the minutes, that when Dr. Morgan gave in his accounts, towards the end of the year 1773, an amount equal to at least two thousand pounds sterling had been received, and the profits of his voyage, at the lowest calculation, may be stated at this sum. Besides the contributions from Carolina, and the West Indies, a very considerable sum was subscribed in Philadelphia and the neighbourhood; so that there was every reason to expect, that the permanent income of the College would, for the future, be amply

sufficient to defray all its necessary expenses.

But the troubles of the revolutionary war, which now broke out, very materially impaired its resources. One of the first effects of this contest upon the institution was a diminution in the number of students, and a consequent falling off, to an equal extent, of the receipts for tuition. In the spring of 1779, there were only about twenty members of the College classes, and eighty boys belonging to the grammar school and Academy; and, at a previous period of the revolution, the numbers had been still less. The income of the College was also greatly diminished by the compelled receipt of depreciated paper in payment of rent and interest; and much loss of capital was experienced, in consequence of the discharge, in the same paper, of the bonds and mortgages in which a great portion of the funds was invested. At the same time that the resources were thus impaired, an enormous advance in the price of almost every necessary, rendered an augmentation of the salaries of the

teachers indispensable, and thus very greatly increased the expenses. To such an extent was this the case, that at the opening of the schools, after a temporary suspension arising from the occupation of Philadelphia by the British army, it was found absolutely necessary to double all the salaries, in order that the professors might obtain a livelihood.

To compensate, in some measure, for this reduction of receipts and increase of expenditure, it was resolved, soon after the resumption of the duties of the College, in the fall of 1778, to make one more application to the citizens for aid. From a report made to the legislature, in the succeeding year, relative to the state of the schools, it appears, that this application resulted in the subscription of twelve hundred pounds, currency, to be paid annually for three years. From the same report it also appears, that the property of the College, at that time, consisted, 1. of the lots and buildings in Fourth Street, including the Academy, the boarding-house to the north of it, and four dwelling-houses in the im-

mediate vicinity; 2. of a farm and mills at Norristown, containing five hundred and seventy-two acres, purchased with the money received in discharge of bonds and mortgages formerly held by the trustees; 3. of the Perkasio lands in Bucks County, presented by Thomas Penn, and containing nearly three thousand acres; and 4. of moneys placed out at interest, amounting to somewhat more than five thousand pounds. The whole income from this estate, independently of the College building, and of two dwelling-houses occupied by professors, amounted only to six hundred and seventy pounds, together with five hundred bushels of wheat, or its value in currency, the latter item being the rent of the mills and farm at Norristown. The entire inadequacy of this income to the demands made upon it, will be rendered obvious by the simple statement, that the salary of the provost alone, over and above the rent of the house in which he lived, was, at the period of the report, not less than seven hundred pounds, and was soon afterwards increased to fourteen hundred

pounds, which, in consequence of the depreciation of the currency, and the rise in the price of necessities, was considered no more than equal to one-quarter of that sum before the revolution. It will be perceived, hereafter, that the poverty of the College was made a pretext by the legislature for interfering in its concerns, and was one of the ostensible causes of a complete revolution in its affairs.

Before speaking of those proceedings of the legislature which led to this result, and which constitute a new era in the history of the institution, it will not be deemed irrelevant to give a brief statement of the salaries of the officers, and the cost of tuition at different periods, from its origin to this time. Such statements are interesting ; as they enter into our means of estimating the character of particular periods of history, and in some measure enable us, by comparing the past with the present, to judge of the progress or decline of society.

When the Academy first went into operation, the rector received a salary of one hundred and fifty pounds, Pennsyl-

vania currency, which on the appointment of Dr. Allison was augmented to two hundred pounds; and the salary of Dr. Smith, when chosen provost of the College, was fixed at the same sum. The other professors received from one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty pounds each, and the ushers, from sixty to seventy pounds. It would appear that these sums, small as they would now be considered, were in those economical times sufficient for the decent support of the teachers: for they remained without increase for several years; and there were few instances of resignation of office, on the ground of inadequate compensation. By the year 1761, however, an advance seems to have taken place in the cost of living, which rendered an augmentation of the salaries necessary. That of the provost was accordingly raised to two hundred and fifty pounds, and the others in nearly the same proportion.\* It has already been stated, that Dr. Smith, after completing the

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\* See supplementary chapter to the present edition.

collection in Great Britain, received from the trustees, as a reward for his services, the gratuity of one hundred pounds annually, independent of his salary; so that his income from the College now amounted to three hundred and fifty pounds. In a letter, however, written to the board, in the year 1774, he states that, on account of "the advanced price of necessaries, and the growing expense of a growing family," he finds it impossible, with all decent attention to frugality, to make this sum answer for his support; and, in a modest way, reminding the trustees of his services to the institution, he requests them to provide him with a house, and promises, whatever may happen in the future, to make no farther demand on them. His request was unanimously complied with; and a spacious mansion was erected on the College grounds, in which he continued to reside till the College itself passed into other hands.\* The example of the pro-

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\* The house erected for Dr. Smith was that large building which still stands at the southwest corner of

vost was soon followed by the other professors; and most of them obtained the right of a dwelling in addition to their salary. The effect of the depreciation of the currency, and of the increased expense of living, during the revolutionary war, upon the nominal amount of the salaries, has been already noticed.

The cost of tuition for the students of the College was originally four pounds a year, with the addition of six shillings for fire-wood and an entrance fee of twenty shillings. The expense of graduation was four pounds. In the year 1757, an attempt was made to raise the price of tuition to ten pounds per annum; but as other colleges continued to retain the lower rate, the attempt proved unsuccessful, and the old price was resumed. The charge for boarding, in the College buildings, was twenty-five pounds fifteen shillings a year; so that, for the very moderate annual sum

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Fourth and Mulberry Streets. All the ground and dwelling-houses, situated between this and the Academy, were the property of the College.

of about thirty pounds or eighty dollars, a young man might, at that period, receive his support in the first city, and his education in one of the highest seminaries of English America. During the revolution it was found necessary, from the same causes which induced an increase in the salaries of the professors, to raise the price of tuition first to twelve, and afterwards to twenty pounds a year.

## CHAPTER VI.

ABROGATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE COLLEGE  
BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

I HAVE before alluded to the suspension of the duties of the College, in consequence of the occupation of Philadelphia by the British army, and to their resumption immediately after the city was evacuated. The schools were closed in the month of June, 1777, and were again opened in September of the following year. The institution, however, had been but a short time in renewed operation, when it experienced, in the disposition of the prevailing political party and of their representatives in the legislature, an hostility much more injurious to its interests than the presence of the enemy. The causes of this hostility it is difficult, at the present time, exactly to understand.

The provost, who, from his long and very important services, and the success with which his exertions had been attended, was, in the public estimation, almost identified with the school itself, had, by his attachment to the proprietors, in their former disputes with the legislature, rendered himself highly unpopular with a numerous party before the war; and his foreign birth, his clerical office in the English church, the honours he had received from the loyal University of Oxford, and the favour in which he stood with men of high station in Great Britain, were circumstances which, as they might naturally give his partialities a direction towards the mother country, tended no doubt, at the commencement of the revolution, to increase the enmity of those who were attached to the cause of independence. Among the trustees of the College, also, were many who were known to be unfavourable to the new order of things, some of whom indeed had left the country and openly joined the enemy. When to these considerations we add the fact, that the in-

stitution had been fostered by English liberality, had been largely endowed by the proprietors, and had even enjoyed the smiles of the king, while from the legislature of the colony it had experienced only neglect, we can feel no surprise that it should have been suspected of a strong attachment to the royal interest, and therefore regarded by many with feelings of unkindness and distrust.

But whatever may have been the inclinations of those in whom the direction of its affairs resided, no public act had been committed which could afford ground for offence. On the contrary, care was taken to cultivate the good-will of the new authorities; and, at the commencement which succeeded the first assemblage of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, the delegates, by the invitation of the trustees, proceeded in a body from the State House to the College, and thus gave it a strong testimony of their approval.

To guard still further against the effects of that political excitement which, there was reason to fear, might be directed

fatally against the institution, it had been provided by those interested in its favour, that the sanction of positive law should be brought in aid of its other claims to the respect at least, if not to the support of the citizens. In the summer of 1776, while the convention of Pennsylvania was engaged in framing a constitution for the government of the Commonwealth, Dr. Smith, having assembled at his house a few gentlemen connected with corporate bodies, proposed that they should endeavour to procure the insertion in the constitution of an article, securing the inviolability of chartered rights. Such an article, drawn up by Dr. Smith, was approved by the meeting; and Dr. Franklin, who was present, undertook to procure its adoption by the convention, over which body he presided, and in the councils of which he was known to possess considerable influence. Hence originated that clause of the constitution of 1776, which secured to all societies "incorporated for the advancement of religion and learning, or for other pious or charitable purposes," the enjoyment of

those rights and privileges of which they were possessed under the former laws of the Commonwealth. But, to use the language of the venerable Bishop White, who was one of the gentlemen assembled at Dr. Smith's, and from whom the above account was derived, "the event showed of what little effect are provisions put on paper, when they interfere with the views of a dominant party in politics."

The first symptom of any disposition in the public authorities to interfere in the concerns of the College, was exhibited in a vote of the General Assembly, in the month of February, 1779, directing an inquiry into the rise, design, and condition of the institution, and appointing a committee for this purpose, with the customary powers to send for persons and papers. In answer to questions proposed by this committee, a long paper was, at the desire of the board, drawn up by Dr. Smith, which was inserted in the minutes, and contains an ample account of the origin of the school, the motives and principles of its establishment, the success which had

attended its efforts, and the state of its affairs at the time of the investigation. From this paper many of the details of the present history have been derived; and it will be readily judged, by those who may have perused the preceding statements, that nothing but a predetermined resolution to admit of no justification would have resisted the plain evidence of the facts which it advanced in favour of the College. Nor is it impossible that some impression may have been produced by it upon the minds of the members of assembly; for either on this account, or from the press of more important business, an adjournment of the legislature took place, without any decision on the subject. But the fate of the institution was only postponed for a few months. At the opening of the next session, in the month of September, its affairs were again brought before the legislature in the message of Mr. Reed, president of the executive council. The obligation of the oath of allegiance to the King of Great Britain exacted by the charter; an indisposition on the part of the trustees to seek

the aid of the new government for an establishment consistent with the principles of the revolution; and a general inattention, in the management of the school, to the interests of this government, were alleged in the message as reasonable grounds for legislative interference; and the lawfulness of such interference was maintained upon the principle, that, in the revolution of states, it becomes not only allowable, but necessary, so to modify pre-existing corporations, whether civil, literary, or religious, as to bring them into harmony with the new political arrangements.

Unfortunately for the College, Dr. Franklin, who was one of its most influential trustees, was now absent in Europe; and the activity of its enemies, which might have been restrained by his presence and authority, was allowed full scope to display itself. The assembly seems not to have required the instigation of the president to sharpen its animosity, or to invigorate its proceedings; for with a precipitation unusual in a matter so important and so little requiring haste, a law was

enacted, abrogating in fact the former charters granted by the proprietors, and removing from their offices in the institution, the trustees, provost, vice-provost, professors, and all others attached to it by any tie of authority or dependence. It is true that a preparatory committee was appointed; and, when the charges were brought before the House, the trustees were allowed to appear by counsel in their defence: but the committee seems to have been chosen rather to search for matter of accusation than to investigate the truth; and it was but a show of justice to hear the representations of the accused, when the resolution was already firmly taken to disregard them.

The charges brought forward by the committee in their report, from which two out of their number were sufficiently conscientious to express their dissent, were chiefly the following:—that an oath of allegiance to the British government was, by the charter, a necessary prerequisite to any official act; that several of the trustees, having joined the British army,

stood attainted as traitors, and others had not, by taking the test, qualified themselves legally to fulfil the duties of their office; that the corporation had shown in its conduct an evident hostility to the government and constitution of the State; that its funds were utterly inadequate to the proper support of a seminary of learning; and, finally, that the original and fundamental principle of the College, by which it was bound to afford perfect equality of privileges to all religious denominations, had not been fully maintained.

The frivolity of these charges will be rendered evident by the slightest examination. The oath of allegiance demanded by the charter was abrogated by the revolution, with all other oaths which connected the Provinces with the mother country. The political conduct and opinions of individual members of the board could operate only to their own disfranchisement, not to the injury of those who remained, nor to the destruction of the corporate rights of the whole body. The alleged hostility of

the corporation to the government and constitution of the State was a matter altogether of feeling, and could not be proved by any public or private act of the body accused. A careful examination of the minutes of the board will on the contrary evince, that care was taken to avoid all political interference; and submission to the laws enacted by the new government should have been accepted as a sufficient evidence of allegiance, without an invidious and inquisitorial examination into private feeling and opinion. The inadequacy of the funds to the proper support of the school, though an excellent reason for legislative assistance, certainly afforded no excuse for taking away the little of which it was already in possession. The last accusation, that of religious partiality, was the most serious; as it involved a violation of the fundamental laws of the institution, an evident departure from the intention of the founders, and an infringement of those conditions upon which the contributions of the benevolent had at different periods

been so largely obtained. Accordingly, this was the only charge which the legislature thought proper to countenance by adoption into the preamble of their act; and upon this, together with their general right of controlling the operation of seminaries of learning, derived from their beneficial or injurious influence, according as they are well or ill conducted, over the peace and welfare of society, they grounded their proceedings in the present case.

The following are the first two sections of the act:—

“ *Whereas* the education of youth has ever been found to be of the most essential consequence, as well to the good government of states, and the peace and welfare of society, as to the profit and ornament of individuals, insomuch that from the experience of all ages, it appears that seminaries of learning, when properly conducted, have been public blessings to mankind, and that on the contrary, when in the hands of dangerous and disaffected men, they have troubled the peace of society, shaken the government, and often caused tumult,

sedition, and bloodshed : *And whereas* the College, Academy, and Charitable School of the city of Philadelphia, were at first founded on a plan of free and unlimited catholicism ; but it appears that the trustees thereof, by a vote or by-law of their board, bearing date the *14th day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-four*, have departed from the plan of the original founders, and narrowed the foundation of the said institution. *Be it therefore enacted,*" etc.

Now, from an examination of the minutes of the Board of Trustees on the day referred to, so far from discovering any vote or resolve which, by the severest construction, would give the least countenance to this charge of "narrowing the foundation" of the College, we find abundant evidence of a determination on the part of the board to "adhere strictly to the faith pledged to all religious denominations."

Dr. Smith, on his return from England, after having completed the great collection in that country, brought with him a letter to the board, signed by the Archbishop of

Canterbury, by the proprietors of Pennsylvania, and by Dr. Chandler, the object of which was to represent to the trustees the propriety of adopting "a fundamental rule or declaration," binding themselves to preserve inviolate the original broad and liberal plan of the seminary, and thus preventing those unpleasant jealousies and contentions, which could not but spring from a suspicion of undue partiality to any one religious sect.\* The sentiments of the

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\* The following is the letter alluded to :—

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE COLLEGE, ETC., OF  
PHILADELPHIA.

GENTLEMEN,—We cannot omit the opportunity which Dr. Smith's return to Philadelphia gives us of congratulating you on the great success of the collection which he came to pursue, and of acknowledging your obliging addresses of thanks to us for the share we had in recommending and encouraging this design. Such a mark of your attention to us will, we doubt not, excuse our hinting to you what we think may be further necessary to a due improvement of this collection, and the future prosperity of the institution under your care.

This institution you have professed to have been originally founded and hitherto carried on for the general benefit of a mixed body of people. In his Majesty's

letter were approved by the board, and a declaration of the nature desired having been drawn up and inserted in the minute book, was signed not only by all those

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royal brief, it is represented as a seminary that would be of great use "for raising up able instructors and teachers, as well for the service of the society for propagating the gospel in foreign parts, as for other protestant denominations in the colonies."

At the time of granting this collection, which was solicited by the provost, who is a clergyman of the Church of England, it was known that there were united with him a vice-provost who is a Presbyterian, and a principal professor of the Baptist persuasion, with sundry inferior professors and tutors, all carrying on the education of youth with great harmony: and people of various denominations have hereupon contributed liberally and freely.

But jealousies now arising lest this foundation should afterwards be narrowed, and some party endeavour to exclude the rest, or put them on a worse footing than they have been from the beginning, or were at the time of this collection, which might not only be deemed unjust in itself, but might likewise be productive of contentions unfriendly to learning and hurtful to religion; we would therefore recommend it to you, to make some fundamental rule or declaration to prevent inconveniences of this kind; in doing of which, the more closely you keep in view the plan on which the seminary was at the time of obtaining the royal brief, and on which

who at that time filled the office of trustee, but afterwards, in compliance with a clause of the declaration itself, by every new trustee after his election, and before he could be admitted to a seat at the board.\* In

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it has been carried on from the beginning, so much the less cause we think you will give for any party to be dissatisfied.

Wishing continual prosperity and peace to the institution, we are, with great regard, etc. etc.

THOMAS, CANT.

THOMAS AND RICHARD PENN.

SAMUEL CHANDLER.

LONDON, *April 9th*, 1764.

\* This document is interesting, both as it disproves the charge of religious partiality, and as it presents, in the signatures affixed to it, a complete list of the trustees at the time of its insertion in the minutes, and of those who afterwards became trustees, with the date of their election, down to the period when the College was finally incorporated with the University. It is as follows:—

“The trustees being ever desirous to promote the peace and prosperity of this seminary, and to give satisfaction to all its worthy benefactors, have taken the above letter into their serious consideration, and perfectly approving the sentiments therein contained, do order the same to be inserted in their books, that it may remain perpetually declaratory of the present wide and

their answer to the Archbishop, copied into the minutes of *June* 14th, 1764, the trustees, after expressing their thanks for his attention to the prosperity of their school, and announcing their compliance with his advice, take occasion to observe, that they should always evince towards the national church every mark of regard consistent with their faith pledged to other

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excellent plan of this institution, which hath not only met with the approbation of the great and worthy personages above mentioned, but even the royal sanction of his Majesty himself. They further declare that they will keep this plan closely in their view, and use their utmost endeavours that the same be not narrowed, nor the members of the Church of England, or those dissenting from them (in any future election to the principal offices mentioned in the aforesaid letter) be put on any worse footing in this seminary than they were at the time of obtaining the royal brief. They subscribe this with their names, and ordain that the same be read and subscribed by every new trustee that shall hereafter be elected, before he takes his seat at the board.

“RICHARD PETERS, PRESIDENT, etc.”

It should be observed that the joint letter referred to, and this document, are both inserted in the minutes of June 14th, 1764, the date alluded to in the preamble of the law.

religious denominations, and with that plan of Christian liberty upon which the institution was founded. A similar sentiment is expressed in their letters to Dr. Chandler and the proprietors, also copied into the minutes of June 14th; and in no other part of the minutes of that date, except in the joint letter and document above alluded to, is any reference whatever made to difference of religious persuasion. Upon the passages here referred to, the legislature must have rested their accusation; and a more striking instance could hardly be offered of that blindness and perversion of judgment to which the best men are liable, when under the influence of violent political excitement.

But even admitting that the legislature might have had cause of dissatisfaction in the management of the seminary; admitting also that, during the struggles of a great revolution, the government has a right to modify pre-existing chartered institutions, so as to bring them into perfect harmony with the new order of affairs; yet, in the present case, the right to such

interference was expressly denied by the very instrument by which the government itself was created, and continued to hold its existence. The constitution of 1776 was then the supreme law of the land; and in this constitution a clause had been inserted with the express purpose of affording protection to the College, and other literary and religious corporations in the State. The tribunals of justice were open to the government as well as to individuals, and for any illegal proceedings the trustees might have been prosecuted in the regular way, with a certainty of conviction. The mode adopted by the legislature evinced their sense of the weakness of their cause; and their decision, so far as we have the means at present of forming a judgment, was accordant rather with the spirit of despotism, than with that justice and moderation which should characterize the representatives of a free people.

## CHAPTER VII.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY.

THE enmity which had thus triumphed over the authorities of the College, was not extended to the objects for which it had been established. On the contrary, having transferred the rights and property vested in the former trustees into more friendly hands, the legislature took the institution into favour, endowed it with lands out of the confiscated estates to the annual value of fifteen hundred pounds, and, by the right of adoption, conferred upon it the new and more lofty title of University of Pennsylvania. The board appointed by the act of assembly consisted of three distinct sets of individuals. The first was composed of certain members of the government who possessed a seat at the board in virtue of their several offices ; the second, of the "senior ministers in standing" of the

six principal sects in Philadelphia ; and the third, of individuals selected for their attachment to the revolution, which, in most of them, was evinced by the possession of high public stations in the Commonwealth.\*

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\* The following is a list of the members of the board :—

Of the first division—those, namely, who held their places by virtue of their offices under the Commonwealth, were

1. The President of the Supreme Executive Council—Joseph Reed ;
2. The Vice President of the Council—William Moore ;
3. The Speaker of the General Assembly—John Bayard ;
4. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court—Thomas McKean ;
5. The Judge of the Admiralty—Francis Hopkinson ;
6. The Attorney-General—Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant.

The second division consisted of

1. The senior minister of the Episcopal churches—Rev. Wm. White ;
2. The senior minister of the Presbyterian churches—Rev. John Ewing ;
3. The senior minister of the Lutheran churches—Rev. John Christopher Kunze ;

By these appointments, it will be perceived that the legislature fully provided for the political fidelity of the University, and its perfect impartiality towards all religious denominations; and these ends were still more firmly secured by the reservation of the right, within six months after the choice of any new trustee, to disapprove and annul the election. Whether the real interest of the institution was consulted by placing it in the hands of men, whose public engagements might be supposed sufficient to occupy their whole attention, was a

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4. The senior minister of the German Calvinist churches—Rev. Casparus Weiberg;

5. The senior minister of the Baptist churches ———;

6. The senior minister of the Roman churches—Rev. Ferdinand Farmer.

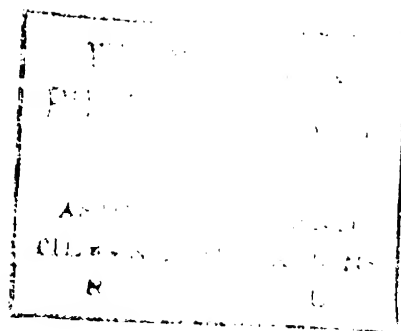
The gentlemen composing the third division were Dr. Franklin, then minister at Paris; William Shippen, Frederick Muhlenberg, and James Searle, delegates from Pennsylvania in the Congress of the United States; William Augustus Atlee, and John Evans, judges of the Supreme Court; Timothy Matlack, Secretary of the Supreme Executive Council; David Ritzenhouse, Treasurer of the State; Jonathan Bayard Smith; Samuel Morris; George Bryan; Dr. Thomas Bond; and Dr. James Hutchinson.

question which could not be readily answered, and was perhaps considered of secondary importance.

The new trustees met for the first time in December, 1779, and, having taken the oath or affirmation at that time prescribed by law, organized themselves into a board, and appointed his excellency, Joseph Reed, their president. However dissatisfied with the late decision, the former authorities of the College did not venture to resist the will of the government, and quietly resigned their property to their appointed successors. Steps were immediately taken to arrange the affairs of the school, and to select suitable individuals to fill the vacant offices. The Rev. Dr. John Ewing, a trustee by right of his station in the Presbyterian church, was chosen provost. David Rittenhouse, the distinguished astronomer, also a trustee, was made a professor, with the title of vice-provost. The professorship of the languages was conferred upon the Rev. Robert Davidson, and that of mathematics upon James Cannon, who had been previously em-



DAVID RITTENHOUSE.



ployed in the College. James Davidson, who had succeeded Mr. Beveridge as teacher of the Latin and Greek languages, and had been connected with the late institution for more than ten years, was appointed rector of the Academy, with an authority independent of the collegiate faculty. A German school was added to the other branches of the seminary; and the Rev. Mr. Kunze gave up his office as one of the trustees, in order to accept the direction of this department. In the course, however, of a very few years, many changes were made. Mr. Rittenhouse, resigning the vice-provostship, was succeeded by the Rev. Samuel Magaw;\* James Davidson was made professor of the languages in the place of the Rev. Robert Davidson, who left the institution; and Robert Patterson, who had before been employed in a subordinate station, was appointed, as the successor of Mr. Cannon, to the chair of mathematics.

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\* The same Samuel Magaw, I suspect, who was mentioned in the list of the first graduates of the College.

Much difficulty was experienced in organizing a medical faculty. For more than three years there was a constant succession of appointments and resignations ; and it was not till the autumn of 1783 that the affair was ultimately settled by the reinstatement of the former professors in the respective stations which they had held in the College.

Among the incidents in the history of the University, it would be improper to pass over, without notice, an evidence of the kindness with which this country and its institutions were regarded by the government of France. In July, 1784, a letter was received by the Board of Trustees from the Marquis de Chattaleau, requesting their acceptance of a collection of valuable books as a present from his most Christian Majesty, made at the instance of the Count de Vergennes and himself. It is unnecessary to say that this mark of royal favour was received with due respect, and answered with a profession of their grateful sense of the honour conferred upon them. Even re-

publicans are wont to attach a fictitious value to the favours of monarchs; and, in the present case, the munificence of the gift is still further enhanced by the associations which our memory forms of its royal author with the independence of our country and his own unmerited misfortunes.

The success of the University was by no means adequate to the expectations, which the patronage of the legislature and its own advantages of situation were calculated to excite. It is true that the inferior schools were generally well attended; but the College classes were small, and the graduates few; and at no period could it boast of a prosperity equal to that which the College had at one time enjoyed. This deficiency of support was undoubtedly in part attributable to the political condition of the country, and to the competition of new seminaries; but other causes quite as influential were to be found in circumstances especially belonging to the University itself. The trustees, chosen prin-

cipally in consequence of their public stations, not from any peculiar fitness for the office, or attachment to its duties, could not be expected to manifest that minute attention and vigilant care which had characterized their predecessors, whose long connection with the College had almost identified its interests with their own. The consequences of this want of vigilance in the board were evident, as well in the uncertain and fluctuating measures which were adopted, as in the condition of the financial concerns, which even the liberal grant of the legislature did not preserve from embarrassment. With the teachers, the unsettled state of their accounts was a frequent source of complaint; and the numerous changes which took place among them, owing probably to this as much as to any other cause, were calculated very materially to injure the reputation of the school. Besides the want of proper energy in the management of the University, another impediment to its prosperity existed in the unfriendly feelings with which it was regarded by many respectable citi-

zens. Attached to the old school and its officers, and considering the new as having been founded in usurpation, they were disposed both from inclination and principle to prefer some distant seminary for the education of their children; thus not only withdrawing their immediate support from the University, but arraying against it the influence of their example with their fellow-citizens, and the force of new attachments among those who were hereafter to become active members of society. To this period we may perhaps trace the origin of those partialities which have directed away from our highest literary institution so much of the public patronage, and at this moment [1827] are operating to the disadvantage and dishonour of the city.

## CHAPTER VIII.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COLLEGE.—SEPARATE EXISTENCE OF THE TWO SCHOOLS.—UNION OF THE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY.

IN the mean time the late authorities of the College were not quiescent under their wrongs. Dr. Smith, especially, was indefatigable in seeking redress for the institution and himself. In repeated memorials, drawn up with no little ability, he represented the injustice and unconstitutionality of the legislative proceedings in their case, and complained that, in his old age, dismissal from an office which he himself had rendered valuable should have been the only reward of his long and important services. Petitions, moreover, were presented to successive legislatures, by the displaced trustees; and the support of a numerous party was not wanting to enforce their claims of justice. The feelings

of the venerable Franklin, who was now returned from Europe, were known to be in their favour; for, though by the law which established the University he was declared one of the trustees, and afterwards, as president of the executive council, had an additional right to the station, he had always declined qualifying himself for a seat at the board, by taking the requisite oaths. Though the public ear may for a time be deafened by the rage of party, it cannot always be closed to the voice of justice; and the current of opinion at length began to turn in favour of the old establishment. One effort, indeed, to restore the College charter by legislative enactment proved abortive; but a bill subsequently introduced was more successful; and, in the year 1789, a law was passed by a great majority, which reinstated the trustees and faculty in all their former estates and privileges. In the preamble of this law, the proceedings of the legislature by which these estates and privileges had been transferred to the trustees of the University, were stigmatized as

“repugnant to justice, a violation of the constitution of this Commonwealth, and dangerous in their precedent to all incorporated bodies ;” so different are the views which will be taken of the same subject by men in the opposite states of calmness and excitement.

But the same sense of justice which led to the re-establishment of the College, forbade any farther interference in the affairs of the University than was necessary for the accomplishment of this purpose. The trustees of the latter institution, therefore, retained their corporate capacity ; and, as the grant formerly made by the legislature out of the confiscated estates still remained to them, they were not left absolutely destitute of support. New buildings were provided\* for the accommodation of the

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\* The minutes of the American Philosophical Society show that on March 11, 1789, a committee of the University of the State of Pennsylvania leased the building of the Society for £85 per annum for five years, with the exception of the two south rooms on the second floor, the University to complete the building, deducting the expenditures for the same from the rent. In 1794, after

schools; the faculties both in arts and in medicine continued their courses of instruction; and a yearly commencement was held as before, at which the various ordinary and honorary degrees were conferred. But the operations, which previously to this change were not marked with vigour, now became still more languid; and, after a feeble existence had been prolonged for the space of rather more than two years, it was found necessary, in order to avert total ruin, to propose a union with the rival seminary.

The trustees of the College had not been negligent in availing themselves of the act which had been passed in their favour. On the 9th of March, 1789, only three days after the final passage of the law, they met at the house of Dr. Franklin, who was the oldest member of the board, and the only survivor of the original founders of the institution. The in-

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the union of the College and the University of the State of Pennsylvania, the University of Pennsylvania applied for a renewal of the lease, but no satisfactory arrangement was reached.—*Note to the present edition.*

firmities of the venerable patriot confined him chiefly if not altogether within doors, and at his request the meetings continued to be held at his dwelling till the middle of summer, when the increasing severity of his disorder rendered him totally unable to attend to public duties. Of the twenty-four trustees who constituted the board at the period of its dissolution, about ten years before this time, only fourteen remained; the rest having either died in the interval, or deserted the country during the revolution. Their first measures were to obtain possession of the college buildings, to organize the different departments of the seminary according to the former plan, to fill up vacancies in the various professorships, and to supply the deficiency in their own number by the election of new members.\* Of the professors in the de-

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\* The following is a list of the trustees who were surviving at the re-establishment of the College:—

Benjamin Franklin, one of the founders, in the		
year . . . . .		1749
Benjamin Chew, chosen . . . . .		1757
Edward Shippen “ . . . . .		1758
Thomas Willing “ . . . . .		1760

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FRANCIS HOPKINSON.

partment of the arts, Dr. Smith and James Davidson were the only survivors. The former, as a matter of course, took the place of provost; and the latter, who, as was previously mentioned, had been employed in the University, accepted the invitation of the trustees to resume his office of professor of languages in the College. The faculty was completed by the appointment of the Rev. Dr. John Andrews and the Rev. William Rogers; the former to

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Dr. John Redman, chosen . . . . .	1763
John Lawrence " . . . . .	1765
Thomas Mifflin } " . . . . .	1773
Samuel Powell }	
Right Rev. William White, chosen . . . . .	1774
Robert Morris } chosen . . . . .	1777
Francis Hopkinson }	
George Clymer } " . . . . .	1778
James Wilson }	
Alexander Wilcocks }	

The vacancies were supplied by the choice of the following gentlemen: Thomas Fitzsimmons, Henry Hill, Robert Blackwell, Samuel Miles, William Bingham, William Lewis, John Nixon, Robert Hare, Dr. Caspar Wistar, and Richard Peters. Edward Burd and David H. Conyngham were afterwards chosen to supply vacancies which occurred in the board. Dr. Franklin was made president, and after his death, was succeeded by Bishop White.

assist the provost in instructing the philosophical classes, the latter, with the title of professor of English and oratory, to superintend the English and mathematical schools.

Of the medical professors, Dr. Morgan was absent from indisposition, and died before the arrangements were completed; and Dr. Kuhn remained connected with the University: so that Dr. William Shippen, professor of anatomy and surgery; and Dr. Rush, who succeeded Morgan in the chair of the practice, were at this time the only members of the faculty. The original number was completed by the appointment of Dr. Wistar to the chair of chemistry and the institutes of medicine, and Dr. Samuel Powell Griffiths to that of materia medica and pharmacy. An additional professorship was created—that of botany and natural history; and Dr. Barton was chosen as its occupant. This may be regarded as one of the most interesting eras in the history of the medical school. It was now that Dr. Rush took that station which his

genius and eloquence afterwards rendered so illustrious; it was now that Barton found a field for the display of acquirements unrivalled among his contemporary countrymen; it was now, moreover, that Wistar entered within those walls, which the fame of his talents as a teacher crowded with pupils, and about which his warm benevolence of heart, and delightful urbanity of manner combined to throw a charm, which, amidst all subsequent changes, has retained a strong influence over the affections of those who had the good fortune to listen to his instructions.

Soon after the revival of the school, a department of law was added to those of the arts and of medicine. James Wilson, a member of the board, was chosen professor, and delivered one or more courses of lectures; but with what success, I have been unable to learn.\* Of the estimation in which his talents were held by the

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\* The opening of the law school was attended with great ceremony. It took place on December 15th, 1790. President Washington and the members of his cabinet, members of both Houses of Congress, judges

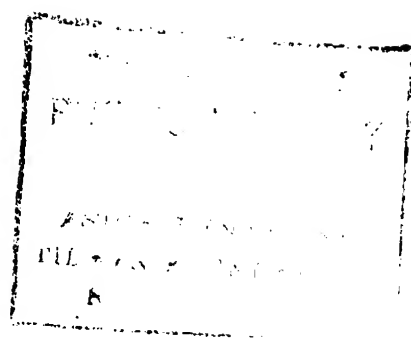
trustees, independently of the evidence afforded by his appointment, we may form some idea from the amount within which it was thought necessary to limit the fee for admission to his lectures. At the request of Mr. Wilson that the board should ascertain the compensation he should be allowed to demand from each pupil, it was resolved that the sum should not exceed ten guineas. At present, the first legal talent in the country would command but a slender attendance upon a course of lectures, were a fee of this magnitude required.

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of the courts, and State and city officials were all present, as were also Mrs. Washington, Mrs. Bingham, and the wives of other citizens of note. Judge Wilson was the orator of the occasion. His address, which was published, was entitled, "An Introductory Lecture to a Course of Law Lectures, by James Wilson. To which is added a plan of the Lectures, Philadelphia, 1791." It was dedicated to Washington, and from the copy Judge Wilson presented to Washington the printed dedication was removed and a manuscript one, signed by the author, inserted. This copy, with Washington's autograph on the title-page, is now in The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.—*Note to the present edition.*



JAMES WILSON.



In little more than a month from the first meeting of the trustees, the various schools were again opened upon their former plan. But most of the obstacles which were opposed to the success of the University, were no less in the way of the College; and it soon became evident that the separate existence of the two seminaries was incompatible with the prosperity of either. Their funds, managed with the utmost attention to economy, were utterly insufficient for the maintenance of two distinct sets of teachers and professors; and legislative assistance could not be demanded with propriety, as neither school could urge an exclusive claim to public bounty, and to endow both, would be to bestow treasure for the attainment of an inadequate object; for it was evident that the demands of the population would be abundantly satisfied by a single seminary of the highest order, which might be conducted at half the expense of the present establishments, and with at least equal efficiency. The same consideration which precluded the expectation of aid from the

legislature, discouraged the trustees from resorting to that plan of soliciting private contributions, which had proved so useful to the College on former occasions, when no rival existed to divide the public benevolence and patronage. There seemed, therefore, no other means of averting the ruin, or at least of raising the character and extending the usefulness of the schools of Philadelphia than to effect a union of their interests and resources. Happily, feelings of hostility had not acquired such vigour as not to yield at length to considerations of public good. Overtures for a union, proceeding from the trustees of the University, were received with unanimous approbation by those of the College; and as both were earnestly desirous of seeing the object accomplished, little time was sacrificed in arranging the necessary preliminaries. A joint application was made to the legislature for such alterations in the respective charters as might give the sanction of law to the proposed measure. The requisite act was obtained without difficulty; and on the 30th of September,

1791, the two corporations were by law united into one.

The principal conditions of the union were, first, that the name of the institution should be *the University of Pennsylvania*; secondly, that twenty-four individuals, chosen equally by the two boards from their own numbers, should, with the governor of the State, constitute the new board, of which the governor should be *ex officio* president; and thirdly, that the "professors who might be deemed necessary to constitute the faculty in arts and in medicine" should as far as possible be taken equally from each institution. It was moreover provided, that vacancies among the trustees, with the exception of the governor, should be filled by their own choice; and that no professor or officer of the faculty should be removed without due and timely notice, or by a less number than two-thirds of the members present at any one meeting, thirteen being necessary to constitute a quorum for such a purpose. In compliance with the provisions of the law, each board proceeded to the perform-

ance of its last official act by the choice of twelve individuals as its representatives in the government of the newly constituted University. The gentlemen thus appointed, together with Thomas Mifflin, the governor of the State, met, for the first time, on the 18th of November, 1791; and, having regularly organized themselves, proceeded without delay to restore to order the disjointed affairs which had been committed to their charge.\*

One of their first measures was to unite the offices of secretary and treasurer in a single person, to whom they gave a compensation adequate to the trouble and responsibility of his station, exacting, at the

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\* The gentlemen chosen by the trustees of the University were Thomas McKean, Charles Pettit, James Sproat, Frederick Kuhl, John Bleakly, John Carson, Jonathan B. Smith, David Rittenhouse, Jonathan D. Sergeant, David Jackson, James Irvin, and Jared Ingersoll. Those selected by the trustees of the College were William White, D.D., Robert Blackwell, D.D., Edward Shippen, William Lewis, Robert Hare, Samuel Powell, David H. Conyngham, William Bingham, Thomas Fitzsimmons, George Clymer, Edward Burd, and Samuel Miles.

same time, satisfactory security for the faithful discharge of the duties intrusted to him. As treasurer he was bound not only to receive and disburse money, and to perform such other services as are usually attached to this title; but also to exercise a general care and superintendence over the estates of the University, and, with the approbation of the trustees, to execute all those measures, of a financial character, which it had hitherto been the custom to refer to the management of committees. It was thought that the attention of one individual of respectable character and standing, whose peculiar interests, moreover, were made to correspond with the duties of his office, would be more profitable to the institution, in the management of its pecuniary affairs, than the gratuitous services of members of the board, whose public spirit could not be expected to withstand, on all occasions, the calls of private business, or to bear, without a relaxation of effort, the irksomeness and fatigue which are incident to trusts of

such a nature. Nor were the calculations of the board disappointed. The propriety of the measure has been demonstrated both by the neatness and accuracy of the records, and by the careful management of the finances, since the period of its adoption.\*

In the succeeding chapters I shall present a very general view of the organization of the University ; and, without entering into minute particulars, shall trace the current of its affairs down to the present time.

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\* Edward Fox was the first secretary and treasurer of the University, and continued to retain the office till the period of his death. He was succeeded by Joseph Reed, Esq., recorder of the city.

## CHAPTER IX.

### ORGANIZATION OF THE UNIVERSITY, AFTER THE UNION OF THE SCHOOLS.

To effect a satisfactory arrangement of the internal affairs of the institution was found by the trustees to be a task of some difficulty. It was evidently impossible, with the limited funds under their control, and with a proper regard to the best interests of the school, so to expand its establishment as to embrace, in its various offices, all the professors and teachers who had been connected with the late College and University; and yet, a sense of the justice due to these gentlemen, as well as private feelings of friendship or regard entertained towards them by individual members of the board, de-

manded that as many of them should be included in the new scheme as might in any way be consistent with the great object, for the attainment of which they were to be employed. Between these opposing considerations, to hit upon the just medium, required the exercise of cautious reflection, and a spirit of mutual condescension among the friends of those candidates whose conflicting claims were in the way of a proper settlement. At length, however, a plan for the seminary was prepared, which, though not without some opposition, was ultimately adopted.

It was determined that, besides the charity schools, there should be three departments; those of the arts, of law, and of medicine. In the department of arts, five separate schools were instituted, to be placed under the care of six professors, assisted by as many tutors as might from time to time be deemed necessary. The first school was to consist of two philosophical classes, to be taught respectively by two professors; the one of natural philosophy, the other of moral

philosophy. The four remaining schools were each to have a distinct professor; the grammar school, a professor of Latin and Greek; the mathematical school, a professor of mathematics; the English school, a professor of English and the belles-lettres; and the German school, a professor of the German and Oriental languages. To fill the six professorships thus established, three individuals were to be chosen out of each of the former faculties, in compliance with that provision of the act of union, by which the trustees were bound to select the officers of the University equally from the two seminaries.

According to the regulations above detailed, the following gentlemen were appointed to the chairs respectively connected with their names:—Dr. Ewing to the chair of natural philosophy; Dr. Andrews to that of moral philosophy; Mr. Davidson to that of Greek and Latin; Mr. Patterson to that of the mathematics; Mr. Rogers to that of English and the belles-lettres; and finally, Dr. Henry Hel-

muth, the successor of Mr. Kunze in the late University, to that of the German and Oriental languages.\* At a subsequent election Dr. Ewing was chosen provost, and Dr. Andrews vice-provost.

From the above statement, it appears, that only two of the late professors, Dr. Magaw of the University, and Dr. Smith of the College, were omitted in the new appointments. The former of these gentlemen, understanding that by becoming a candidate he might interfere with the interests of his friend Dr. Andrews, generously declined a nomination; the latter, though supported by a large number of the trustees, had, however, a majority opposed to him, and was now finally separated from an institution, with the infancy of which he had become associated in early life, whose youth he had strengthened and adorned in the vigour of his age, and whose

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\* The German school was maintained but for a short time, being either inadequately supported, or not found productive of those advantages which were originally proposed.

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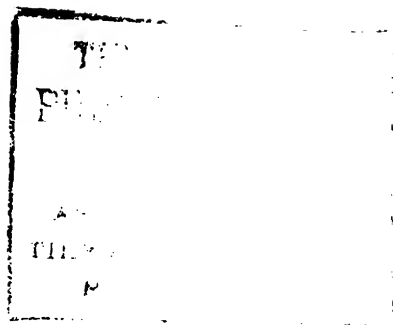
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JOHN CHRISTOPHER KUNZE, D.D.

untimely decay, now in his declining years, was another link in the chain of sympathy by which it had so long been connected with his fortunes. The age and infirmities of the late provost were probably thought to unfit him for the superintendence of a great seminary, in which vigour of authority must be conjoined with extensive knowledge and talents for instructing; and an inferior station could hardly have been offered with propriety, or accepted without degradation. It is possible, however, that a little leaven of old political animosity may have lurked in the minds of those who opposed him, and mingling with the more obvious motives, have communicated to them a force and influence which they might not otherwise have possessed. Yet this feeling, if it existed at all, must have been feeble; for no asperity marked the official proceedings, and every disposition was displayed to do, in whatever regarded pecuniary matters, all that justice could require. The Doctor was allowed to retain, for one year, free from rent, the house which he had occupied as provost

of the College; his claims upon the institution to the amount of nine hundred pounds were admitted and adjusted; and an annuity of one hundred pounds, formerly granted in consideration of his services in England, was now secured to him for life. The intimate connection of the affairs of the old College, in all its vicissitudes of good and bad fortune, with him who was its first and last provost, has necessarily brought before our view many events in the life of that prominent individual; and circumstances peculiar to himself—his learning, his talents, his public-spirited exertions, and the large space which he filled in the esteem and affection of a numerous and most respectable acquaintance—give these events a value in narration, which would, perhaps, have justified us in presenting them to the public in still more minute detail than we have deemed necessary merely for the illustration of this historical sketch. It may not be amiss to state, in taking a final leave of the venerable provost, that his life, already far advanced at the period of his separa-





CHARLES WILLING HARE.

tion from the institution, was protracted to the year 1803.\*

In the department of law, the regulations which originated with the late College were still maintained, and Mr. Wilson was continued in his professorship. But the place seems to have been nominal; for no salary was attached to it, and sufficient encouragement was not afforded by students to compensate the trouble of a regular course of lectures. To the present time, instruction in law continues, on paper at least, to be a part of the scheme of the University. In the year 1817, attention was called to the subject by the announcement of a course from Charles W. Hare, at that time professor; and a respectable attendance was commanded by the high and well-merited reputation of that accomplished lawyer. I am not aware, however, that the effort was continued beyond one

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\* For further details concerning Dr. Smith's connection with the University, see supplementary chapter to the present edition.

season; and it has not since been repeated.\*

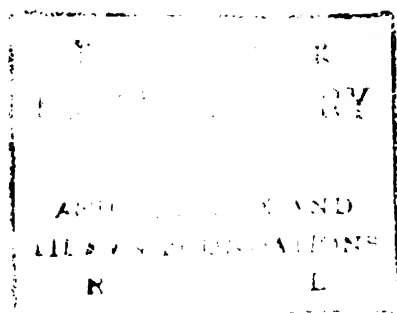
It has before been stated that a complete history of the medical school does not constitute a part of our present design. I shall now, therefore, merely mention the names of the gentlemen who were chosen professors in this department. The new faculty was composed of William Shippen, professor of anatomy, surgery, and midwifery; Caspar Wistar, adjunct professor of the same branches; Adam Kuhn, professor of the practice of physic; Benjamin Rush, professor of the institutes and clinical medicine; James Hutchinson, professor of chemistry; Samuel Powell Griffitts,

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\* This statement, it must be recollected, has reference to the period when the history was written. At the present time (Feb. 1872) a flourishing Law School is in existence, and has been so for several years, in connection with the University.—*Note to the edition of 1872.* For an account of the Law School, see *An Historical Sketch of the Law Department of the University of Pennsylvania.* By Hampton L. Carson, Esq. (Class of 1874). Read by request before the Society of the Alumni, the Law Faculty, etc., October 10th, 1882.



JAMES HUTCHINSON, M.D.



professor of *materia medica*; and Benjamin S. Barton, professor of natural history and botany. Of these gentlemen, the first six were chosen equally from the late College and University; the seventh, though nominally a member of the faculty, was not placed on the same footing with the others; as, by a resolution of the board, an attendance upon his lectures was declared not to be an essential requisite for obtaining the medical honours.

## CHAPTER X.

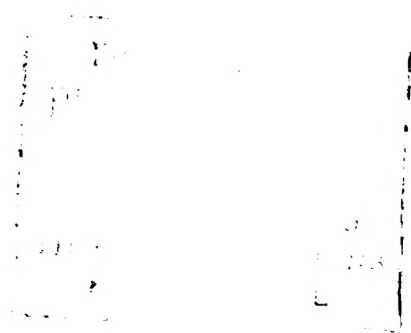
ACCOUNT OF THE PROFESSORS OF THE  
UNIVERSITY.

It will be most convenient, for the sake of avoiding confusion in the subsequent narrative of events, to pursue at once down to the present time the succession in the faculty of arts, without immediate reference to the particular situation of the seminary at the period of each new appointment. As the mere name of an individual is a blank to those unacquainted with his person, character, or history, a few condensed biographical notices will be necessary, in order that correct conceptions may be formed of the condition and merits of the institution of which the subjects of the proposed notices were the conductors.

The Rev. Dr. John Ewing, the first pro-



JOHN EWING, D.D.



vost of the University, had risen by his own exertions from very humble beginnings. The son of a farmer of moderate circumstances in Maryland, and one of a numerous family, he had neither, when a boy, the advantages of a regular education, nor, in his manhood, the assistance of any influential relatives to push his fortunes in the world. Gifted, however, with a strong propensity to scientific pursuits, he improved the slender opportunities which were afforded him in his native place by industrious and eager application ; and, when old enough to enter upon an independent course of life, left his father's house, to seek elsewhere the means of instruction and support. Both objects were secured by an engagement which he formed, in the double capacity of pupil and assistant, with Dr. Allison, who then taught a private school, with much reputation, in the Province of Pennsylvania. Such was his diligence in his new station, and such the extent of his acquirements, that, on application for admission to the College at Princeton, he was not only received in

one of the higher classes, but was also employed as a tutor; and was thus enabled to continue his plan of improving himself, and of earning a livelihood by assisting in the improvement of others. Having obtained his degree, he devoted himself to the study of theology; and, returning to Dr. Allison, now vice-provost of the College of Philadelphia, qualified himself, under his instruction, for admission into the ministry. His first connection with the institution, over which he was ultimately called to preside, took place soon after this period. The absence of Dr. Smith in Great Britain, on the business of the College, having occasioned a temporary vacancy in the faculty, Mr. Ewing, though then only twenty-six years old, was thought qualified to supply his place in the charge of the philosophical classes. Shortly afterwards, he entered into the pastoral office as minister of the first Presbyterian congregation of Philadelphia, to which he continued attached during the remainder of his life. It was in consequence of this station that he became one of the trustees

of the University, founded by the legislature upon the ruins of the College; and his elevation to the office of provost, while it was due to his attainments in learning and science, was undoubtedly facilitated by his known attachment to the principles of the revolution, and to the independence of his country. That he should have countenanced the injury done to his former friends, and even been willing to partake of their spoils, is only a proof that the best men, by the violence of party excitement, are apt to have their vision so perverted, that an act of injustice, if it promote the great political object in view, assumes in their eyes the colour of necessity, if not of virtue. It has been seen that, on the union of the schools, his claims to the provostship were thought to overbalance the high qualifications and long services of Dr. Smith. He continued to preside over the University, and to perform the duties of professor of natural philosophy till 1802, when he died, at the age of seventy-one years. But, for a short time before the close of his life, he was disabled

by ill health from that steady and vigorous application to the business of his station which had characterized the early period of his employment, and by which alone he could compensate the University for that unfortunate division of his time and attention, which his adherence to the pastoral office rendered necessary. From the accounts which are left of Dr. Ewing, he appears to have been characterized rather by strong judgment and indefatigable application, than by great genius or brilliant imagination. As a mathematician he was thought not to have a superior in the Union. His classical attainments were highly respectable, and, by a fondness for biblical researches, he was led to devote much time to the study of the Hebrew language. While the extent of his acquirements commanded the respect of all, the mildness and goodness of his character, and the excellence of his social qualities, secured him the kindness and affection of his companions. On a visit which he paid to Great Britain, before his elevation to the provostship, he was

received with the highest marks of favour in the literary circles of Edinburgh and London, where he acquired the friendship of several distinguished men, particularly of the celebrated historian Dr. Robertson, by whom he was remembered affectionately to the time of his death. It was on this visit that he received, without solicitation, the title of Doctor of Divinity, conferred upon him by the University of Edinburgh. The lectures on natural philosophy, which he delivered to the classes under his care, were printed after his death, and, though at present out of date, attracted considerable attention at the time of their publication.

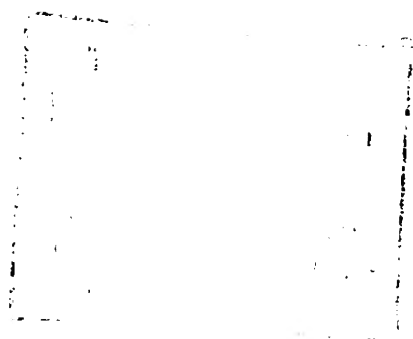
The place left vacant by the death of Dr. Ewing was not filled by a new appointment till the year 1806, when John McDowell, LL.D., of Annapolis, in Maryland, was induced to resign his station as principal of St. John's College, in order to accept the professorship of natural philosophy in the University of Pennsylvania, which was offered him by a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees. In the commence-

ment of the following year he was elected provost: but the state of his health was found to be incompatible with the duties he had undertaken to perform; and, in little more than three years after entering the institution, he retired into the country, and left to the trustees the embarrassment of another choice. He afterwards evinced his attachment to the school, by supplying a temporary vacancy occasioned by the resignation of his successor; and still later, by the bequest of his books, which now form a valuable part of the library belonging to the institution.

At the period of Dr. McDowell's retirement, Dr. Andrews had been vice-provost for nearly twenty years; and his services both in the College and University, together with the respectability of his attainments and character, entitled him to what little addition of honour and emolument was to be derived from his elevation to the higher post. A native of Maryland, he was, at the age of seventeen, sent to receive his education in the College and Academy at Philadelphia, where he gradu-



JOHN ANDREWS, D.D.



ated A.D. 1765, and was immediately employed as a tutor in the German school; thus beginning his career in the lowest station of that institution, in the highest office of which it was destined to close. Having qualified himself for the ministry, and received regular ordination in the Episcopal church from the bishop of London, he entered into the service of the celebrated English "Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts," and, in the capacity of a missionary, preached at different places in the interior of Pennsylvania and Maryland. The revolution found him settled with a congregation in the latter of these Provinces; but, as his political sentiments were not exactly accordant with those of the great majority of his parishioners, his situation soon became so uncomfortable as to induce him to remove to Yorktown, where he maintained himself for many years by the profits of a flourishing school. In 1785, he accepted an invitation to take charge of the Episcopal Academy, then just established in this city, which he continued to superin-

tend till, upon the revival of the College and Academy, he was induced to become a colleague of his former master, Dr. Smith, in the management of the philosophical school. I have already spoken of his long services in the University. In December, 1810, he was unanimously elected provost; but his health now began to give way, and he was compelled to withdraw from the institution, after having enjoyed his elevation little more than two years. Though not described as a man of splendid abilities, Dr. Andrews was highly esteemed as a first-rate classical scholar, and an excellent teacher. The works he has left behind him are the living records of his diligence and skill—they are the numerous men of note in the various walks of professional life, the foundation of whose reputation was laid in the instruction they received from him in their youth.

In reply to the letter in which Dr. Andrews, a few months before his death, announced his desire to resign his station in the University, the trustees expressed their

high sense "of the unremitting industry and great ability with which he had successively filled the offices of provost and vice-provost;" and communicated their unanimous resolution that the salary which he had hitherto received should be continued to him during the remainder of his life. The Rev. Frederick Beasley, the present [1827] learned and respected provost, was chosen to succeed him in July, 1813.

Having spoken of the successive principals of the University, it remains that I should briefly notice their several coadjutors. It will be remembered that Robert Patterson was one of those who were selected from the faculty of the late University, with which he had been connected from its origin, first in a subordinate capacity as a teacher in the mathematical school, and afterwards with the title and privileges of professor. Few teachers in this city have passed through a career at once so long, so uniformly correct, honourable, and prosperous, as that which prudence and fortune combined to mark out

for this gentleman. Though an Irishman by birth, he came to this country before the revolution, and possessing therefore all the rights and feelings of a citizen, exhibited, throughout the course of his life, a warm attachment to our republican institutions, and a passionate interest in our national honour and greatness. Some previous experience in the art of teaching, and a skill in the mathematics which was the natural result of diligent application, great mental accuracy, and clearness of intellect, fitted him well for the chair, which, without the extraneous influence of friends and relatives, they enabled him to attain. To the professorship of mathematics, after the death of Dr. McDowell, he united that of natural philosophy; and in the year 1810 was made vice-provost, in the place of Dr. Andrews. Independently of his emoluments from the University, he for many years enjoyed a considerable salary as president of the Mint. Thus comfortable in his circumstances, he was enabled, in the decline of life, to withdraw from the fatigues of his professorship,

and to seek that repose which was now essential to his tranquillity. Testimonies of the public esteem followed him into retirement. The degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him by the institution which he had so long and diligently served; and, in the presidency of the Philosophical Society, to which he was appointed on the death of Dr. Wistar, he received the highest literary honour in the gift of any association on this side of the Atlantic.

At the time of his resignation, a favourite son had been chosen to supply his place till a regular appointment should be made. He lived not only to witness the confirmation of this son in the professorship, but to experience, from his honourable exertions and well merited reputation, the purest gratification of which the parental heart is susceptible. To crown the felicity of his lot, he had united the Christian with the philosopher; and, at a good old age, went down to his grave, with the full assurance that he should rise again to a happier and more exalted existence. Dr. Robert Patterson, the present [1827] vice-provost and

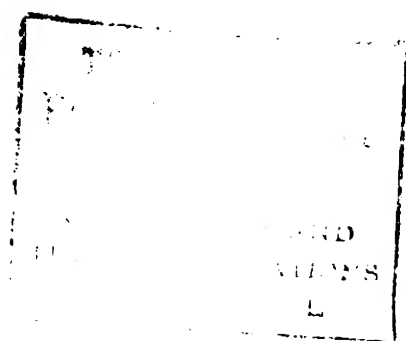
professor of natural philosophy, succeeded his father A.D. 1813.

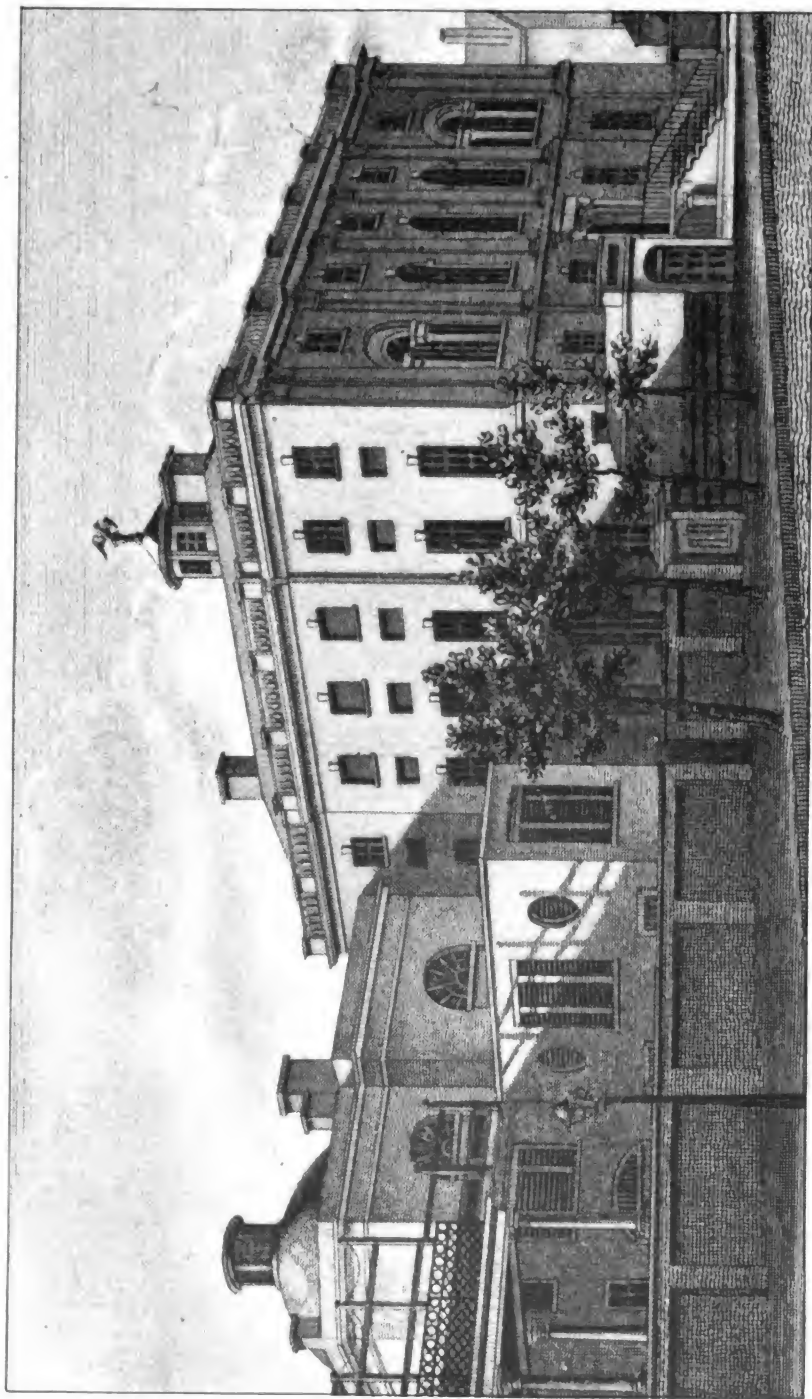
Of the professors who belonged to the College before its overthrow in 1779, Mr. Davidson alone had retained his station through all the subsequent changes. In the superintendence of the Academy of Newark in Delaware, he had exhibited such evidence of his familiarity with the learned languages, and of his abilities as a teacher, that, on the death of Mr. Beveridge, he was thought qualified to supply the place of that accomplished scholar, and was invited towards the close of the year 1767, with offers too favourable to be resisted, to take charge of the Latin school. That his talents continued to be held in high estimation is evinced by the fact, that in each successive change of the institution, care was taken to secure his services. The same fact speaks favourably of the prudence and general moderation of his character, by which he was enabled to steer through the embarrassments of a most agitated period, without either striking against the prejudices and passions

which beset him on all sides, or suffering himself to be carried away by the violence of the currents which swept across his course. In the same tenour of usefulness and respectability his life ran evenly on, till at length the debility of old age overtook him, and rendered a retirement from active duties advisable on account of the University, and necessary for his own comfort. Upon the occasion of his resignation, the Board of Trustees, expressing the "high regard and respect" which they entertained for him, resolved that "in consideration of his long and faithful services," he should be allowed an annuity of two hundred and fifty pounds, and the use of the house which he then occupied, during the remainder of his life. Mr. Davidson resigned in February, 1806; and, in the month of May following, James G. Thompson, the present [1827] excellent professor of the Latin and Greek languages, was appointed in his place.

The Rev. William Rogers, professor of English and the belles-lettres, was a clergyman of the Baptist church. He had served

during the revolution as chaplain in the army, and afterwards had the charge of a congregation in this city. His office in the University, though nominally on a footing with the other professorships, was in fact regarded as less essentially connected with the interests of the seminary, and therefore commanded less both of influence and emolument. Of so little importance indeed was it considered, that, in a change of regulations which took place in the year 1810, the trustees resolved that it was expedient to suppress it: but, at the same time, unwilling to wound the feelings of Dr. Rogers, they determined that it should remain in its former condition till after the death or resignation of that gentleman. The latter of these contingencies was soon realized. Unwilling that the institution, from a regard to his convenience, should continue to suffer an unnecessary burden, he withdrew from it altogether, and left the board at liberty to make whatever arrangements they might deem most salutary. Dr. Rogers, after surviving all his former colleagues, died recently at an advanced age.





THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1802-1829.  
(ERECTED FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL MANSION.)

## CHAPTER XI.

### REMOVAL OF THE SCHOOL.—NEW UNIVERSITY EDIFICE IN NINTH STREET.

HAVING given a brief account of the gentlemen who composed the faculty of arts, as it was constituted immediately after the union of the schools, and of their successors to the present time, we may now recur to what belongs, perhaps, more strictly to the history of the institution—the consideration, namely, of those various changes in its external and internal affairs, which circumstances and a more mature experience have at different periods rendered necessary or advisable.

The first interesting event after the arrangements of the schools had been completed, was their removal from the Academy in Fourth Street, to the more elegant and

commodious building which they now occupy, and which was purchased by the trustees from the government of the State. As very erroneous impressions have been entertained by many of our citizens relative to the history of this edifice, we shall not perhaps be thought to transgress the limits proper to our subject, by relating briefly the circumstances which led to its erection, and those which afterwards occasioned its transfer. It is well known that, in the year 1791, the Congress of the United States assembled in Philadelphia, in pursuance of a resolution of the previous session, by which the seat of government was transferred from New York to this place. It comported as well with the dignity as with the interest of Pennsylvania, that her metropolis, which had thus become, for a time, the political centre of the Union, should be rendered in every way an acceptable residence to those who represented the national authority. Provision was accordingly made, at the public expense, for the suitable accommodation of the two houses of Congress; and by an act of the

legislature, passed on the 30th of September, 1791, a large sum of money was appropriated for the building of a mansion to serve as a residence for the President of the United States, so long as Philadelphia should continue to be the seat of the national councils. In pursuance of this act, a lot was purchased, situated on the west side of Ninth Street, and extending from Market to Chestnut Streets, on which a building was commenced, appropriate, in extent of plan and solidity of structure, to the purpose for which it was designed. At various periods of its progress, further appropriations became necessary; and, by the time of its completion, in the spring of 1797, its cost had amounted to little short of one hundred thousand dollars.

Among the motives which originally led to its erection, there can be no doubt that affectionate gratitude to the great man who then filled the presidency, was mingled with considerations of general policy; but nothing of this kind was expressed in the letter of the act, the provisions of which

had reference solely to the office of chief magistrate, not to the person of any particular individual. It was probably from a knowledge of the feelings which actuated the legislature, that the opinion became and has continued very prevalent in this city, that the building was not only expressly designed for the use of Washington, but was even offered to his acceptance, and declined from a sense of the propriety of maintaining, in the exercise of his high duties, an independence, free alike from the reality and the suspicion of bias. The fact, however, is, that it was not completed till after his retirement from public office, and therefore could not have been applied to his accommodation in his character of President. It was Mr. Adams to whom the offer was made, and by whom it was declined. Towards this gentleman, however, the warmth of attachment was neither so intense nor so widely diffused; and conditions were annexed to the offer, certainly not contemplated in the original intentions of the legislature, and hardly compatible, as it appears to me, with the honour and

dignity of the 'Commonwealth. The grounds upon which Mr. Adams felt himself bound to decline the favour, were the obligations of that article of the constitution which forbids the receipt by the President either from an individual State, or from the United States, of any other emolument than the yearly salary attached to his office.\*

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\* The following is an extract from a note, dated March 3d, 1797, addressed by Governor Mifflin to the President elect. "In the year 1791, the Legislature of Pennsylvania directed a house to be built for the accommodation of the President of the United States, and empowered the governor to lease the premises. As the building will be completed in the course of a few weeks, permit me to tender it for your accommodation, and to inform you, that, although I regret the necessity of making any stipulation on the subject, I shall consider the rent for which you might obtain any other suitable house in Philadelphia, (and which you will be pleased to mention,) as a sufficient compensation for the use of the one now offered." The reply of Mr. Adams was promptly conveyed. "The respect to the United States," says he in a note of the same date with the above, "intended by the Legislature of Pennsylvania in building a house for the President, will, no doubt, be acknowledged by the Union as it ought to be.

As the purpose for which the house had been built was now frustrated, and no other use to which it could be profitably applied presented itself, it became necessary so to dispose of the premises as to reimburse, as far as possible, the expense incurred by the State in their purchase and improvement. By a law passed in March, 1800, they were directed to be sold at public auction; and in July of the same year they were purchased by the University, for the moderate sum of forty-one thousand six hundred and fifty dollars, less than half their original cost. As the purchase money was to be paid by instalments, the trustees were enabled to meet the demands upon

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For your kind offer of it to me, in consequence of their authority, I pray you to accept my respectful thanks, and to present them to the legislature. But as I entertain great doubts, whether, by a candid construction of the Constitution of the United States, I am at liberty to accept it, without the intervention and authority of Congress, and there is not time for any application to them, I must pray you to apologize for me to the legislature for declining the offer." See Journal of the House of Representatives of the Pennsylvania Legislature.—*Note to the edition of 1834.*

them by the disposal of stock, and the sale of a portion of the old College and adjoining premises. A part of this property in Fourth Street they were bound by the conditions of their title deeds to retain in their possession, for the maintenance of a charity school, and the accommodation of itinerant preachers.\* By letting on ground-rent those unoccupied lots of their new purchase, which fronted on Market and Chestnut Streets, they provided a permanent income, which has very materially lightened the pressure of the first cost upon their resources. Some alterations in the building necessary to fit it for the purposes to which it was now destined, were made immediately after it came into their hands; and a very extensive edifice has since been added for the use of the medical professors.

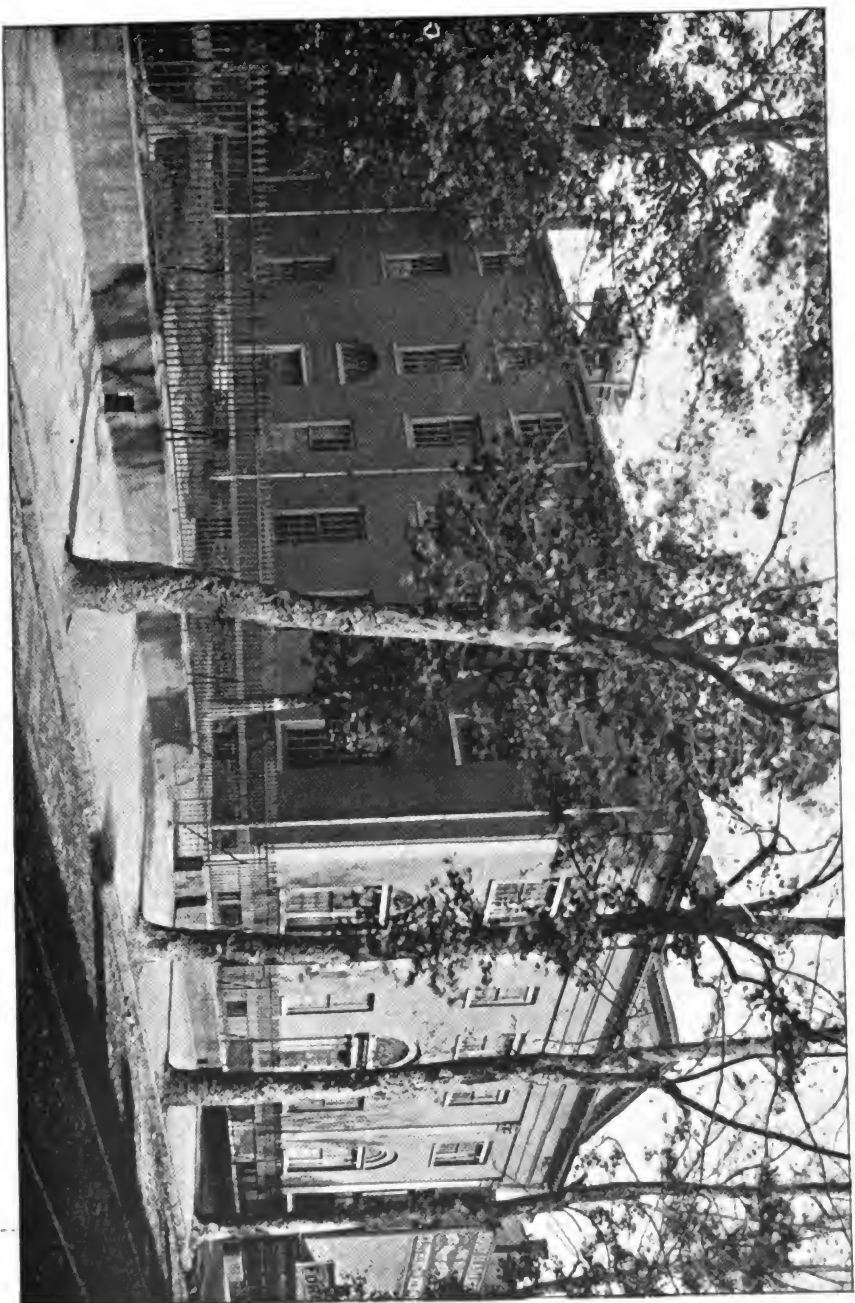
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\* A part of the old Academy was sold to a society of Methodists, for whom it long served as a place of worship. This portion has recently been taken down and replaced by a new church. The northern half of the building is still standing and in possession of the trustees.—*January, 1834. See note to the present edition, p. 12.*

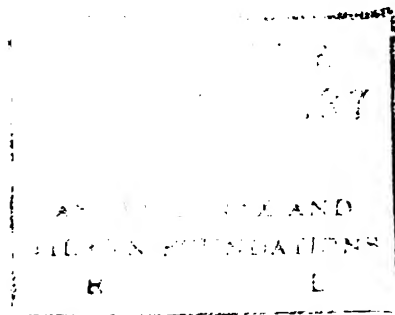
The schools were not finally transferred to it till the spring of 1802.\*

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\* Since this account was written, the buildings alluded to have been taken down, and their place supplied by others, more symmetrical in their external appearance, and better adapted, in their internal arrangements, to the varied business of a great collegiate establishment. The new College hall was opened for the reception of students in the autumn of 1830. During the progress of the building, the classes were accommodated in the old Academy in Fourth Street. A representation of the former University edifice may be seen in the "Views in Philadelphia and its Vicinity," published in Philadelphia in 1827, by C. G. Childs.—*January*, 1834.



THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.  
(ERECTED IN 1829.)



## CHAPTER XII.

LANGUISHING CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS IN  
THE UNIVERSITY.—DEFECTIVE ARRANGE-  
MENTS UPON WHICH THIS CONDITION DE-  
PENDED.

THE inquiry may now be reasonably made, whether the success of the University was such as to justify those high and apparently well-grounded expectations to which the union of the schools had given rise. For the honour of Philadelphia, it would be well could we truly answer this question in the affirmative; but the fact is too notorious to be denied, that, with the exception of the pecuniary affairs, which were soon brought into good order and comparative prosperity, there was reason for several years rather to regret a still further depression than to boast of an advancement in the fortunes of the institution. Since the first establishment of the

College, there had scarcely been a period, unless during the severest commotions of the revolution, when the students in the higher branches were less numerous, or the reputation of the seminary at a lower ebb. In the philosophical school, consisting of the two highest classes, there were in the year 1797 only twelve students; the numbers qualified to graduate were in several instances so few, that it was deemed unnecessary and impolitic to hold commencements; and, when the practice of conferring degrees publicly was resumed, it not unfrequently happened that only five or six individuals appeared as candidates for the honours. It is not to be supposed that this state of things was regarded with indifference by the trustees: on the contrary, committees of investigation were frequently appointed; the sources of the evil were diligently explored; as each mistake or deficiency was rendered sensible, efforts were made to correct or supply it; till at length the features of the institution were completely changed, and its whole system so remodelled as to bring it into

closer accordance with the character of the times, and to extend considerably its sphere of usefulness.

The historian of nations deems it his duty not only to record alterations of prosperity and misfortune, glory and disgrace, but also to search out and explain the causes of these changes, that useful lessons may thus be afforded to statesmen, and the good of the past augmented, and its evil diminished, by the example and warning it is made to hold out to the future. The same principle should influence the humbler author, who confines his attention to small communities; for they, too, may have successors to be benefited by the picture of their vicissitudes. No excuse, therefore, is necessary for attempting to expose the causes of the very low condition into which the University was depressed at the close of the last and commencement of the present century.

Among these causes may, perhaps, be included the practice of compensating the professors by fixed salaries, without allowing them any share in the proceeds of

tuition. There is a *vis inertiae* in mind as well as in matter, and the best men acknowledge that, to put forth their highest energies, they require the incitement of powerful motives. An officer with a fixed salary, of which he neither fears the diminution nor expects the increase, without any apprehension, so long as he exhibits no gross negligence or misconduct, of losing his situation, and equally without the hope of higher advancement, will, if an honest man, perform punctually his prescribed routine of duties; but he will seldom be willing to sacrifice allowable gratifications, to devote to labour his hours of permitted leisure, to task, in fine, all his faculties to the utmost, with no other reward in view than the welfare of those by whom he may be employed, or of the institution to which he may be attached. In great seminaries, where so much depends upon the talents and energy of the teachers, the lukewarmness resulting from this want of strong personal interest, may be seriously felt in the languor of their operations, and the consequent disrepute

into which, if not strongly supported by local attachments, or the force of opinion, they will be apt to fall. With regard to the school of Philadelphia, it may, indeed, be said, that the regulation alluded to had been introduced at its origin, and had been maintained during its greatest prosperity. But at that early period, there was comparatively little competition to encounter; novelty itself afforded no moderate stimulus to exertion; and, in the instability and immaturity of the infant establishment, there was, in fact, a strong inducement held out to the professors to spare no efforts which might tend to fix it on a more elevated and firmer basis, and thus render their own situation more honourable and secure. That afterwards, when age had given it stability, and its continued existence was secured by its own internal strength, the system of compensation by fixed salaries became highly injurious to its interests, cannot be reasonably doubted. The fact, indeed, was so obvious, that it at length attracted the notice and interference of the trustees, who, in the spring of 1800,

came to a resolution, that the professors, in addition to their regular salaries, which at that time varied from two hundred and fifty to three hundred and fifty pounds per annum, should be entitled to the tuition money of their respective schools, thus giving them a motive for exertion which could not but be productive of favourable results.

These results, however, were not immediate. There were yet some radical errors, the injurious influence of which, so long as they were allowed to remain, no industry nor talent in the teachers could wholly counteract. But by their late resolve the trustees had brought a principle into action, which never rests till all its purposes are accomplished. The interests of the professors having become identical with those of the seminary, there now existed, in the faculty of arts, a body of men watchful over its concerns, quick-sighted in detecting all the weak parts of its structure, sagacious in discovering remedies for present evils and sources of new vigour, and eager to bring their views into practi-

cal application. The Board of Trustees, which, though composed of some of the wisest and best men in the community, is naturally slow in the formation of opinions, and still slower in its decisions, was quickened by this spirit of its own creation into clearer views and more energetic action. The subsequent changes may therefore be said to have grown out of that first regulation, which, planted in the principles of our nature, could not but spring up into vigorous and fruitful increase

The system of the seminary was fundamentally wrong. In the first place, the professors had no sufficient bond of union by which, in the business of instruction, their efforts might harmonize, and their strength operate to the greatest advantage by being exerted in one direction. With the exception of the professors of moral and natural philosophy, who divided the philosophical classes between them, each had his distinct school, which he managed at his own discretion, and the pupils of which had no other connection with the University than such as arose from the

office held by their teacher. With such an organization, the pursuit of any systematic course of instruction, if possible at all, must have been liable to continual interruptions, alike injurious to the scholar and derogatory to the credit of the school.

Another evil existed in the want of proper classification among the students. The distinction between the collegiate and academical parts of the institution, which had never been sufficiently marked, was now scarcely perceptible. Almost every branch of knowledge considered essential in a course of education, from the lowest to the highest, was included in its scheme ; and if we except the two philosophical classes, the students of every grade were mingled together, not only under the same roof, but in the same apartment, and under the same teachers ; so that the boy learning the simplest rules of arithmetic, or the first lesson in grammar, was neighbour to the young man engaged in the highest mathematical and classical studies. In this absence of discrimination, an impolitic

disregard was exhibited to that strongest feeling of the youthful breast, the desire of distinction ; which gives to the priority of a few years in age, or a slight superiority of attainment, a degree of importance, the influence of which we are apt, in manhood, to forget or undervalue. To be associated as pupils in the same establishment, even to be seen coming out of the same door with children but just out of their petticoats, was to the elder students, who began to look upon themselves as young men, a highly disagreeable necessity ; but to be mingled in the close fellowship of school-room, was a degradation to which only the force of parental authority could induce them to submit. All whose own inclinations were consulted were naturally induced to prefer some other seminary, where their claims to a proper consideration would be respected ; and numbers were thus directed away from the school of Philadelphia, whom the advantages of proximity, united with their local attachments, would otherwise have connected with it.

Another circumstance contributed to the same result. It is the custom in most colleges for the students to pursue their studies in private, and to be collected together in the presence of the professors for a short time only each day, for the recital of the prescribed lessons, or to attend the lectures which are usually given. But, by the regulations of the University, it was required that the scholars of the higher as well as lower classes should be detained for several hours, both in the morning and afternoon, within the walls of the seminary, where they were compelled to attend to their several subjects of study under the immediate eye of their teachers, being considered as too young or too giddy to be trusted to their own private exertions, and as needing some other incentive to exertion than the desire of applause, fear of shame, or sense of duty.

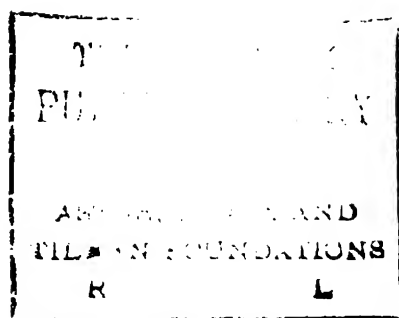
From these causes it happened that the alumni of the University were not only few, but often of an age better adapted to the commencement than to the completion of a course of the higher studies; and the

institution came to be regarded as a seminary of inferior grade, which, however well it might have been adapted to those circumstances of a young community in accordance with which it was originally established, had not kept pace with the general march of improvement, and was now behind many others of which it had formerly enjoyed the undoubted precedence.

## CHAPTER XIII.

NEW REGULATIONS.—INSTITUTION OF THE PHILOMATHEAN SOCIETY.—IMPROVED STATE OF THE SCHOOL.—ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

IN the year 1810 a reformation was commenced by a complete separation of the seminary into two parts, the boundaries of which were distinctly marked, and their objects accurately defined. The students of the College, arranged into three classes—the freshman, junior, and senior—were placed under a faculty composed of three professors, who filled respectively the chairs of moral philosophy, of natural philosophy and the mathematics, and of the languages. Of these professors one was the provost, and the second the vice-provost of the University. The term of study was confined to three years; and the course of instruction em-





WILLIAM ROGERS, D.D.

braced, together with the Latin and Greek classics, all those higher branches of learning and science which are usually taught in colleges. By a special determination of the board it was provided that, whenever punishments might be necessary, they should be directed exclusively to "a sense of duty, and the principle of honour and shame." From this it would appear, that the students might previously have been subjected to occasional bodily chastisement — a degradation to which high-minded young men could not be expected to submit; and the liability to which, if it really did exist, must have had a great effect in lowering the general standard of character and attainment in the school, and bringing down its reputation to that inferior level upon which it stood for many years.

The resignation of Dr. Rogers gave the trustees an opportunity of abolishing the professorship of English and the belles-lettres; and the English school, which, from the foundation of the institution had constituted a part of it, was shortly after-

wards dissolved. Under the name of the Academy, a grammar school was retained, in which were taught the various inferior branches of learning, necessary as a preparation for entering upon a collegiate course. Over this school was placed one or more teachers, without the title of professor, without any authority in the general management of the institution, and subject to the superintendence and control of the collegiate faculty. The Charity Schools, which constituted a third division of the department of arts, were also placed under the care of the faculty ; so that the College, while in itself independent, was enabled to exercise over the inferior branches a degree of authority, sufficient to preserve them in accordance with its own interests, and to give the character of a regular system to all the operations of the seminary.

Such were the first steps in the path of improvement. Further advances were gradually made, as the way became clearer, and experience began to demonstrate the safety if not expediency of the

course pursued. To raise the character of the College, higher qualifications for admittance were made requisite; and among these qualifications, a suitable age was considered essential. Formerly, boys had not unfrequently been permitted to pass through and receive the honours of the institution, whose immaturity of years was, of itself, a sufficient evidence of their unfitness for these honours; and men who beheld these unfledged *alumni*, could not but doubt the judgment and prudence of that *alma mater*, who had sent them forth from her bosom while yet so incompetent to their own intellectual management. It was resolved that no applicant should be received into the lowest class under the age of fourteen; a time of life at which it was thought that the sense of honour might be sufficiently developed to serve as a motive for strenuous application, and the intellect sufficiently mature to render such application productive.

With the view of exciting emulation among the students, greater care was taken to apportion the several grades of

honorary distinction at the commencements to the merits of the candidates ; while, in the mean time, they were taught to feel more strongly the influence of public sentiment, and to allow it more authority over their conduct, by occasional exhibitions of their skill in oratory before respectable assemblages of citizens.

They were, moreover, encouraged to form among themselves an association, similar to those which exist in many other colleges in this country, and the influence of which has been found highly beneficial, both to the young men who belonged to them, and to the seminaries under the auspices of which they have been established. In these societies, the charm of secrecy has been employed to attract new members, and to maintain a stronger interest among the old ; while it is deprived of all mischievous tendency by the participation of the professors and other officers of the College. To be able fully to appreciate the importance of such institutions, we must revert to the period of our

own youth, and call to mind the deep interest, the spirit at once of union and emulation, the kindly feelings towards each other united with the energetic determination to excel, inspired into us by their manlike exercises ; and, while dwelling on these recollections, we shall experience in the love with which our hearts warm and expand towards the scene of our young efforts, and the vivid desire which arises to witness and contribute to its prosperity, a sure evidence of the lasting benefit which must flow to the seats of learning, from multiplying such sources of pleasant and affectionate association. The Philomathean Society of the University of Pennsylvania was founded in the year 1813, and still exists. The attention of the public is annually called to it by an address, commemorative of its origin, delivered by some one of its older members, appointed for the purpose.\*

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\* Another society, of a similar character, has since been instituted among the students of the University, under the name of the Zelosophic Society.—*January, 1834.*

Notwithstanding all these changes, there yet remained, in the plan and arrangement of the seminary, some errors which it was important to rectify. The period of three years, to which the College term was restricted, was insufficient for the completion, without extraordinary talent and industry, of the prescribed course of studies; and the proper qualifications for a degree could not therefore be so rigidly insisted on, as if a due portion of time had been allotted. Nor was the number of professors proportionate to the task of instruction, embracing as it did almost the whole circle of the sciences. Some branches were necessarily omitted or imperfectly taught; and thus, to the want of time, was added another cause for insufficient preparation on the part of the student. It naturally followed from these circumstances, that the requisites of graduation were considered lower, and consequently the honour of a degree less, in the University, than in most of the prominent colleges of the United States; and, as the regulation requiring a long attendance of the students upon the

professors remained unaltered, and the grammar school, though entirely separate in its government and conduct from the College, was still maintained in the same building, and therefore frequently confounded with the higher department, the institution was not yet able to rise entirely out of that reputation of inferiority, which had been attached to it from the period of the revolution.

The trustees, however, becoming sensible of these disadvantages, have recently\* made alterations, which, so far as regards the organization of the department of arts, leave little further to be desired. The grammar school has been removed from the building in Ninth Street, and located in the old Academy; so that the collegians no longer incur the risk of being confounded with the inferior pupils, and are allowed to enjoy unalloyed the natural and salutary sense of importance belonging to their station. That other unsatisfactory regulation relative to the time of their

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\* Prior to 1827.

attendance has also been altered ; and in this respect they are now placed on a footing with the students of the highest and most respectable seminaries. The term of study has been extended to four years ; another class has been added to the three previously existing ; and the faculty has been augmented by the appointment of a tutor, and the institution of a fourth professorship.

Time has not been allowed, since the adoption of these regulations, for the full development of those good effects which may reasonably be expected from them ; but the result of the changes which were made at an earlier period has been highly favourable. Since the year 1810, the University has certainly taken a higher standing than it had previously enjoyed. Its operations have been conducted with greater regularity ; the courses of instruction have been more complete and efficient ; and the annual number of graduates varying from seven to thirty-four, has exhibited an increase of reputation and popularity, which though by no means equal to the

wishes of its friends, or to its just claims, gives us a cheering assurance that the later improvements, which are but just beginning to be carried into effect, will not be fruitless in the end.

In the same spirit which originated the measures above detailed, the Board of Trustees, in the year 1816, determined to institute a new department in the University, to be devoted more especially to the advancement of those branches of science which could not be advantageously brought within the scheme of the seminary as it then existed. It was evidently impossible, during the regular collegiate course, to acquire an intimate and thorough acquaintance with all the diversified subjects of human knowledge. All that could be aimed at with discretion, was the communication to the young student of such varied elementary instruction, as might enable him, in his subsequent career, to pursue beneficially any particular subject of study to which his interest or his genius might incline him. But there are many branches of science, both ornamental and

useful, which, even with the aid afforded by this elementary instruction, are still attended with so many difficulties, that the learner is apt to be discouraged at the threshold, and to turn away his steps towards some object of more easy attainment, but less honourable in the pursuit, and less advantageous in possession. These difficulties, consisting often in the want of practical and experimental illustrations of the facts and deductions of science, may be removed or greatly diminished by courses of lectures, delivered by well qualified professors, with the assistance of extensive cabinets of specimens, and a suitable apparatus. This remark is particularly applicable to those branches of knowledge which are designated by the general title of natural science. As the means requisite for the proper illustration of these subjects are often beyond the resources of individuals, it was thought by the board that, by constituting a faculty of professors, and affording them such facilities in the prosecution of their several courses of instruction as might be within

the power of the University, they would be contributing towards the public good, and at the same time elevating the character of the institution over which they presided. A department of natural science was accordingly created, embracing five professorships, which were immediately filled by the choice of men recommended either by their general talent, or by their peculiar fitness for the offices to which they were appointed. The duty of the professors was to give annual courses of lectures to the public, for which their remuneration was to consist in the fees of the attendants ; and the advantages which they derived from the University, besides the honour of the connection, were the gratuitous use of suitable apartments, and access to the apparatus belonging to the institution. Though the rule demanding annual courses has not been exactly complied with by all the gentlemen who have accepted professorships in this department, yet on the more important and popular subjects lectures have been regularly given, in some instances, to numerous classes ;

and the general result, if not so favourable as might have been anticipated, has been such as fully to justify the original adoption of the measure, and to give rise to the hope that much may flow from it hereafter.

## CHAPTER XIV.

## STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY IN THE YEAR 1827.

IN order to complete the view which it is the object of this essay to lay before the public, it will be necessary to give an account of the arrangement and condition of the several departments of the University, as they exist at the present time.\* If, in the execution of this task, some facts which are already familiar should be again brought into notice, it is hoped that the advantages to be derived from the integrity of the picture, will overbalance the irksomeness of the repetition.

The institution is under the control of a Board of Trustees, composed of twenty-

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\* It will be recollected by the reader, that the period here alluded to was the year 1827, when this account of the University was prepared. In any instance in which material alterations have been made since that period, the fact will be stated in a note, with the present date.—*January, 1834.*

four citizens of Pennsylvania, together with the governor of the State, who is *ex officio* president. This board is perpetual; and, in the exercise of its authority, is subject to no other limitations than such as are fixed by the several charters under which it acts. For the transaction of business a stated meeting is held every month, and special meetings are occasionally called when any important matter demands immediate attention; but, as in the management of so extensive an establishment, there are many objects which require a constant and vigilant superintendence, the board divides itself into standing committees, to each of which some particular province is ascribed for its especial charge. The duties of secretary and treasurer are performed by an officer appointed by the board, who is compensated by a regular salary and a small commission upon the revenues of the institution.\*

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\* The names of all those who filled the office of trustee, from the origin of the school to the period at

The University is nominally divided into five distinct departments, those, namely,

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which the College and University were united, have been mentioned in previous notes. Those elected since that period, whose places have been vacated by death or resignation, are the following :

Alexander James Dallas, Joseph B. McKean, Joseph Ball, Samuel M. Fox, Thomas M. Willing, Moses Levy, John T. Mifflin, John H. Brinton, John R. Coxe, Anthony Morris, Thomas M. Francis, William Tilghman, late Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, Rev. James P. Wilson, George Fox, Zaccheus Collins, Thomas Duncan, Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, Robert Walsh, Jr., Rev. Thomas H. Skinner, and Rev. Thomas McAuley.

The following gentlemen, exclusive of the governor of the State, compose the board, at the date of this note :

1. Rt. Rev. William White, D.D.,
2. William Rawle, LL.D.,
3. Benjamin R. Morgan,
4. James Gibson,
5. Horace Binney, LL.D.,
6. William Meredith,
7. Benjamin Chew,
8. Robert Waln,
9. John Sergeant, LL.D.,
10. Thomas Cadwalader,
11. Peter S. Duponceau, LL.D.,
12. Nicholas Biddle,
13. Charles Chauncey, LL.D.

of the ARTS AND SCIENCES, of NATURAL SCIENCE, of GENERAL LITERATURE, of LAW, and of MEDICINE.

I. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARTS AND

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14. Joseph Hopkinson, LL.D.,
15. Joseph R. Ingersoll,
16. Rev. Philip F. Mayer, D.D.,
17. Philip H. Nicklin,
18. Rt. Rev. H. U. Onderdonk, D.D.,
19. John C. Lowber,
20. James S. Smith,
21. Edward S. Burd,
22. John Keating,
23. George Vaux,
24. Rev. William H. DeLancey; D.D.

The reader acquainted with the general history of the Union, and the particular history of this State, will have observed, that, at every period of the existence of the school, the Board of Trustees has been remarkable for the number of its members distinguished in politics, literature, science, and the liberal professions; and a glance at the list of its present members will satisfy him that it has not degenerated. We may, indeed, be proud as Philadelphians, that our city has been able to afford so many distinguished names as are to be found in the catalogue of those who have at different times directed the affairs of the College and University. The office of treasurer and secretary is now occupied by James C. Biddle, who succeeded Joseph Reed, late recorder of the city.—*January, 1834.*

SCIENCES.—This department consists of three parts, the *College*, the *Academy* or *Grammar Schools*, and the *Charity Schools*.

The *College* is under the immediate government of a faculty, composed of four professors and a tutor, to whom, besides the business of instruction, are committed the duties of administering the general discipline of the seminary, and of representing to the trustees, in semi-annual reports, the exact condition both of the collegiate and academical classes.\* The offices of pro-

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\* Some alterations have been made in the arrangement of the faculty of arts since the year 1827. The four professorships remain as before; but an assistant professorship has been added. The office of tutor, referred to in the text, was also made an assistant professorship, which has, however, been recently abolished. In 1827, when this memoir was written, the members of the faculty were Rev. Frederick Beasley, D.D., provost and professor of moral philosophy; Robert M. Patterson, M.D., vice-provost and professor of natural philosophy; James G. Thompson, professor of languages; and Garret Van Gelder, tutor. The professorship of mathematics, which was then vacant, was soon afterwards supplied by the election of Robert Adrain, LL.D. It is well known that, since the period above mentioned, great changes have taken place in the

vost and vice-provost of the University are held respectively by two of these professors. It is the duty of the provost, and

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faculty, so that not one of those who then occupied chairs is now connected with the institution. The faculty of arts at present consists of the following members:—

Rev. William H. De Lancey, D.D., acting professor of Moral Philosophy, and acting Provost of the University;

Robert Adrain, LL.D., Professor of Mathematics and Vice-provost of the University;

Rev. Samuel B. Wylie, D.D., Professor of the Hebrew, Greek, and Latin languages;

Alexander Dallas Bache, Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry;

Henry Reed, Assistant Professor of Moral Philosophy.

With the exception of Mr. Reed, these gentlemen immediately succeeded those above mentioned, as filling the same offices. The predecessor of Mr. Reed, and the first assistant professor of moral philosophy, was the late Rev. Edward Rutledge. Thomas McKinley and the Rev. Christian F. Cruse, successively after G. Van Gelder, held the place of tutor or assistant professor, now abolished.

Dr. De Lancey has resigned his station in the University, but continues to occupy it temporarily, till a successor can be provided. The Rev. Philip Lindsley, D.D., has been elected, but has not yet signified his acceptance of the office.—*January, 1834.* Dr. Lindsley declined the appointment.—*Note to the present edition.*

in his absence of the vice-provost, "to visit and superintend the various schools and departments; to see that the rules and statutes of the trustees are duly carried into effect; and to advise and suggest such alterations and improvements as he may deem best calculated to promote the welfare and usefulness of the institution."

The compensation of the professors, if not ample, is at least respectable. Besides a fixed salary, which to the provost is one thousand dollars, to the vice-provost nine hundred, and to each of the other professors about eight hundred and fifty, they severally have the use of one of the houses belonging to the University, or an equivalent sum in money, and divide equally between them the proceeds of tuition. They are moreover entitled to a small sum from every graduate in the arts; and the provost and vice-provost derive a considerable addition to their income from the fees which they receive upon affixing their signatures to the medical diplomas.\*

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\* The mode of compensating the professors has undergone some alteration since this was written. They

The number of classes is four, distinguished by the usual titles of *freshman*, *sophomore*, *junior*, and *senior*. One year is appropriated to each class; so that the whole College term extends to four years. The requisites for admission into the lowest or freshman class are, that the applicant should not be under the age of fourteen; that he should have been taught arithmetic, and the rudiments of geography; and that he should have read, in the Latin language, Virgil, Sallust, and the Odes of Horace; in the Greek, the New Testament, Lucian's Dialogues, Xenophon's *Cyropædia*, and the *Græca Minora* of Dalzel. The course of study embraces the highest Greek and Latin classics, with Grecian and Roman antiquities; the mathematics from algebra to fluxions; natural philosophy, chemistry, and geography in all its branches; ancient and modern history, grammar, rhetoric, logic, moral philosophy, and metaphysics. The students are also exercised in writing

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now receive a fixed salary without any share of the tuition money.—*January*, 1834.

Greek and Latin, in English composition,  
and in the art of speaking.\*

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\* Since the year 1827, considerable changes have been made in the course of instruction, which is believed at present to be as comprehensive as that pursued in any similar institution in the United States. The following regulations are extracted from the Catalogue of the University, published by order of the trustees in January, 1834.

“To be admitted into the Freshman Class, a student must be at least fourteen years of age. He must be qualified for examination on the following subjects and authors:—*Latin*. Cæsar, Virgil, Sallust, Odes of Horace.—*Greek*. New Testament, the Four Gospels, Acts, and the Epistles of Peter. Xenophon, first three books. Græca Minora, or Jacob’s Greek Reader.—Quantity and scanning in each language.—*English*. The elements of English grammar and of modern geography.—*Arithmetic*, including fractions and the extraction of roots.

“No student is admitted to advanced standing without the fullest preparation for the class into which he applies for admission.

“COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN THE  
COLLEGE.

“FRESHMAN CLASS.—*Mathematics*. Algebra, including simple and quadratic equations, surds, cubic, and biquadratic equations. Approximations. Converging series, &c.—*Classics*. Five books of Livy. Horace’s Satires. The Epistle to the Hebrews. Selections from

The pupils of each class are submitted to semi-annual examinations in the pres-

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Herodotus. Latin and Greek exercises. Roman and Grecian Antiquities.—*English*. English Grammar (Lowth's English Grammar), and Geography reviewed. Ancient History (Lardner's Outlines of History). Readings in Prose and Poetry. Written Translations from ancient authors. Declamation.

"SOPHOMORE CLASS.—*Mathematics*. Elements of Geometry (Legendre's Geometry). Logarithms. Plane Trigonometry. Surveying, Mensuration, &c.—*Classics*. Cicero de Oratore. Terence. Cicero's Orations. Horace's Epistles. Selections from Thucydides, Xenophon, Demosthenes, Lysias, Isocrates, Plato and Ælian, Homer's Iliad, Latin and Greek exercises.—*Nat. Philosophy*. Elements of Mechanics (Library of Useful Knowledge, or Lardner's Mechanics and Hydrostatics).—*English*. History (Mackintosh's History of England). Rhetoric (Whately's Rhetoric). English composition. Declamation.

"JUNIOR CLASS.—*Mathematics*. Spherical Geometry and Trigonometry. Perspective Geography, including the Use of the Globes and Construction of Maps and Charts. Analytical Geometry, including conic sections (Young's Analytical Geometry). Elements of the Differential Calculus, with applications (Young's Differential Calculus).—*Classics*. Art of Poetry. Juvenal. Quintilian's Institutes. Review of Selected Odes of Horace. Cicero de Officiis. Selections from the Odyssey, Hesiod, Apollonius Rhodius, Sophocles, Euripides, Theocritus, Pindar, &c.—*Nat. Philosophy and*

ence of a committee of the trustees ; and those who do not acquit themselves satisfactorily, are not allowed to proceed.

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*Chemistry.* General doctrines of equilibrium and motion. Equilibrium and motion of solids and fluids (Cambridge Mechanics). Theory and Construction of Machines (Application of Descriptive Geometry).—Heat (Turner's Chemistry). Electricity, including Galvanism. Magnetism. Electro-magnetism (Roget in Library of Useful Knowledge). Philosophy of Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry commenced (Turner's Chemistry).—*English.* History continued. Moral Philosophy. Logic (Whately's Logic). English compositions. Written discussions.

“SENIOR CLASS.—*Mathematics.* Elements of the Integral Calculus, with applications. Variations of Lagrange. Analytical Mechanics (Young's Analytical Mechanics, and Lectures).—*Classics.* Former authors reviewed or completed. Longinus. Tacitus.—*Nat. Philosophy and Chemistry.* Astronomy (Gummere's Astronomy). Optics (Brewster's Optics). Steam-engine (Lardner on the Steam-engine and lectures). Inorganic Chemistry completed. Organic Chemistry (Turner's Chemistry).—*English.* Evidences of Natural and Revealed Religion. Intellectual Philosophy. Law of Nations and Political Law (Kent's Commentaries). English composition. Forensic discussions.

“On every Saturday members of the Senior Class deliver original essays in the chapel.

“*French, Spanish, and German* may be pursued, if required by parents.

Punishments are confined to private or public admonition or reproof, degradation, suspension, dismissal, and expulsion. All but the two last may be inflicted by order of a majority of the faculty:—these, as they

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“On each day of the week, except Saturday, there are not more than four nor less than three recitations of one hour each for every class. On Saturday each class recites once.

“All the classes, except the Senior Class, recite both in the morning and afternoon.

“The instructions of the College are conveyed in part by lectures, but principally by the study of the most approved text-books aided by the explanations of the professors. The diligence of the student is tested by rigid daily examinations. The character of each recitation is recorded, and the results communicated to parents or guardians in the middle or at the end of each term. At the end of each term, public examinations of the classes are held by the faculty; and the students are classed in the order of merit.

“Defective students are not allowed to proceed to a higher class, and incompetent students are dismissed from the institution.

“Negligent and indolent students are transferred to a lower class when unable to proceed with the studies of their own class.”

Instruction in the French, Spanish, and German languages is given to those students who may desire it, by teachers appointed by the trustees.—*January, 1834.*

are the most serious, and are liable to affect injuriously the character and future prospects of the young man, require the sanction of the board. Between the punishments of dismissal and expulsion there is this difference, that, after the former, a student may be reinstated by a vote of the trustees, while the latter totally disqualifies him for readmission into the institution, and for receiving any of its honours. The board, however, do not call upon other schools to exclude the students who may have been expelled from their own; nor, though more than once invited to come into an agreement to this effect, do they consider themselves bound to refuse admittance to those who may have incurred expulsion elsewhere; but reserving to themselves the privilege of judging of the circumstances of each case, decide according to their own opinion of its merits. That disposition which would fix an indelible mark of disgrace upon the forehead of a young man, however guilty, and would shut up against him the path of repentance and returning honour, savours rather of

revenge and persecution, than of that spirit of beneficence which chastens only for good; and it is placing too much power in the hands of any set of men, other than the public tribunals of the country, to enable them, whether from a sense of justice, or from any worse motive, forever to cut off from the youth who may have incurred their displeasure, all access to the fountains of instruction, and thus perhaps to blast prospects which may have opened upon him with the fullest and brightest promise.

The price of tuition in the collegiate classes is sixty dollars for one year, more than five times the amount demanded by the College before the revolution.\*

Two scholarships have been founded upon the funds of the institution, the right of nomination to which belongs to the heirs of Thomas Penn. This arrangement originated in the conditions of the grant, made by that gentleman to the late Col-

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\* The price is now twenty-five dollars for each term, or seventy-five dollars a year.—*January*, 1834.

lege and Academy, of his fourth part of the manor of Perkasio. In the deed of conveyance, dated July 21st, 1759, it was provided that the trustees should never dispose of their interest in the estate, and that, when the income from it should amount to two hundred pounds per annum, they should educate, maintain, and clothe two persons of the nomination of the grantor or his heirs; and it was also provided that, if these conditions should not be complied with, or in case of a dissolution of the corporation, the land should revert to the original owner, or to those who might represent him. The number of acres was about two thousand five hundred, and the rent at the period of the conveyance was forty-three pounds. In the year 1813 the rent is stated at more than six hundred bushels of wheat; an increase which strikingly exemplifies the great nominal rise in the value of property. It appears from the minutes of the Board of Trustees, that they had always been desirous of selling this land, as the sum which it would command might be in-

vested so as to produce an income far greater in amount than any rent which could be obtained. But as the sanction of the proprietor was necessary before a sale could be made, and upon application from the trustees he expressed his unwillingness to give the desired permission, the design was dropped for the time, and the lands remained as before. Several partial efforts were afterwards made, which either ended in the appointment of committees, or failed from a want of proper attention in the progress of the affair. At length, in the year 1816, the board determined to exert themselves for the attainment of the object; and, as a preliminary measure, passed a resolution pledging the income of the University for the education and maintenance of any two individuals at one time, and of an equal number forever, whom the heirs of the late proprietor might nominate.\* Thus originated the "Penn foundation," the

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\* These nominations are now made by the Governor of the Commonwealth.—*Note to the present edition.*

establishment of which was merely the transfer of an obligation before attached to the possession of the Perkasio lands, to the general funds of the University; and was very properly considered by the board as a necessary proceeding on their part, before permission to sell these lands could be decently requested. Application being now made to John Penn, the descendant and heir of Thomas Penn, a release of the condition annexed to the original grant was readily obtained; and in the year 1817 the whole estate was sold for the sum of sixty thousand five hundred dollars, a portion of which was paid in cash, and the remainder secured by bond and mortgage. It has been mentioned, on a former occasion, that the purchasers were unable to meet their engagements; and that much of the property has in consequence reverted to the University.

Connected with the collegiate department of the University is a library, which, though not very extensive, contains many rare and highly valuable works. The donation of the king of France, and the

bequest of Dr. McDowell, have already been alluded to. Presents for the library have been received from other sources, among which may be mentioned a number of Bengalee books from the Rev. Wm. Carey, Baptist missionary in India. Appropriations are occasionally made by the trustees for its increase; and a standing committee, in whose charge it has been placed, are directed to purchase, as occasion may offer, such works as they may think suitable, "particularly all publications connected with the past and present condition of the United States."

There is also connected with the same department a philosophical apparatus, which has been gradually increasing since the foundation of the school, and is at present one of the most valuable and extensive collections of this kind, existing in America.\*

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\* The apparatus has been considerably augmented since the period alluded to in the text. I have been assured that it is now at least equal to that of any collegiate establishment in the United States.—*January, 1834.*

With all these recommendations, it might be reasonably expected that the College would be crowded with students; but the new regulations, by which it has been placed on its present footing, are too recent to have produced any of those good effects which may be ultimately expected from them; and the number of students, therefore, differs little from the average of the last ten or fifteen years, which may be stated at about fifty.\*

Of the *Academy*, which is the second division of the department of arts, it is necessary to say but little. Under this title are included two grammar schools—one in the charge of the Rev. James Wiltbank, located in the old Fourth Street Academy; the other, a seminary situated in the western part of the city, which has

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\* Under the influence of the new spirit which has been infused into this department of the University within the last few years, the number of pupils has greatly augmented. According to the catalogue published in 1832, the members of the four College classes amounted to one hundred and twenty-six. The number at present is ninety-four.—*January, 1834.*

long been conducted by Messrs. Wylie and Engles, and has recently come into connection with the University. Over these schools a general superintendence is exercised by the faculty of arts, assisted by a committee of the board; and a course of instruction is pursued calculated to prepare the scholars for admission into the collegiate classes. The teachers are compensated by the proceeds of tuition, and receive from the University no other advantage than the influence of its name, and, in the instance of the first mentioned school, the use of a suitable room free from rent. The price of tuition is twelve dollars a quarter; and the number of scholars generally exceeds one hundred.\*

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\* The academical department at present embraces a classical and English school, under the charge of a principal, who teaches the classics, an English teacher, and three assistants. The present principal is the Rev. Samuel W. Crawford, who is assisted by Theophilus A. Wylie and William Alexander. The English teacher is Thomas McAdam, and his assistant Thomas McAdam, Jr. The number of pupils at present in the Academy is one hundred and eighty-four.—*January, 1834.*

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WASHINGTON, D. C.



RT. REV. WILLIAM WHITE, D.D.

The *charity schools* are a highly interesting branch of the seminary. The circumstances of their origin, and the obligations which bind the trustees to their continued support, have been already detailed. From the foundation of the Academy to the present time, two schools, one for boys, the other for girls, have been constantly maintained out of the general funds of the institution; and the average number of scholars receiving instruction in them has been about one hundred. In the year 1823, a third school was established under the following circumstances. A citizen of Philadelphia, by the name of John Keble, upon his death in 1807, left the residue of a considerable estate to be applied to such charitable objects as might be appointed by the Right Rev. Bishop White, and other persons designated in the will. Conceiving that the promotion of education among the poor was the most effectual charity, and having full confidence in the stability of the University, and the uprightness of those who had the direction of its affairs; these gentlemen were convinced that they should

best acquit themselves of their charge, by appropriating the property to this institution, in trust that it should be kept a distinct fund for the extension of the boys' charity school. The appropriation was made in March, 1809, at which time the estimated value of the property was nearly ten thousand dollars. Most of it, however, being real estate, and not very productive, the income was deemed too small for immediate and advantageous application. The fund was therefore allowed to accumulate for several years, till, in 1823, it had become sufficiently ample to authorize the establishment of a new school, to be maintained exclusively out of its annual proceeds. Thus originated the *Keble Charity School*, which is now in a flourishing condition, containing about fifty scholars. The income of the whole Keble fund is at present estimated at one thousand dollars. That portion of it which is not applied to the support of the school, is added to the principal, and thus made productive.

All the charity schools are "subject to the inspection, superintendence, and con-

trol of the professors of the collegiate department and a committee of the board." The children who attend them, to the number of about one hundred and fifty, are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic; and the whole expense of their instruction, including the salaries of teachers, the rent of rooms, the cost of books, and other incidental charges, is little if at all short of two thousand dollars per annum.

2. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCE.—

The present condition of this department is by no means flattering. There are nominally five professorships—those of natural philosophy, of botany, of natural history, of mineralogy and chemistry applied to agriculture and the arts, and of comparative anatomy. A regulation of the department requires that annual courses of lectures should be publicly delivered by each of the professors; but it has been only partially complied with. We have been favoured with highly valuable courses from Dr. Patterson upon natural philosophy, from Dr. William P. C. Barton upon botany, and from William H. Keat-

ing upon chemistry and mineralogy ; but the last of these gentlemen is now absent from the country, Dr. Barton has attached himself to another institution, and the professor of natural philosophy is at present the only efficient member of the faculty. It would be a source of great regret, should an establishment which promised so much honour to the University, and so much good to the community, be allowed to fail. The public patronage, however, affords an insufficient compensation for the labour and talents which are requisite for a proper performance of the duties of the several professorships ; and it is hardly probable that this department will ever prosper, unless the trustees should be able, from their own funds, to supply the deficiency of public support, by salaries adequate to the services required.\*

In connection with the subject of natural science, it may be proper to mention that, by act of assembly, in the year 1807, a

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\* This department of the University, which the establishment of the Franklin Institute has rendered unnecessary, has been abolished.—*January*, 1834.

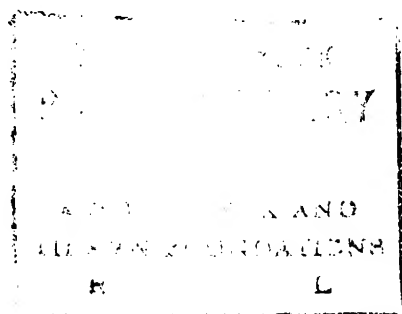
grant of three thousand dollars was made to the trustees of the University, out of the money due by them to the State, "for the purpose of enabling them to establish a garden for the improvement of the science of botany, and for instituting a series of experiments to ascertain the cheapest and best food for plants, and their medical properties and virtues." A lot of ground suitable for such a purpose has been purchased, the care of which, and of the means necessary for its improvement, has been entrusted to a standing committee of the board. But the appropriation of the legislature was too small to be efficiently applied without the addition of a much larger sum; and, as the income of the University, absorbed in the support of its existing establishment, will admit of no further expenditure, the enterprise, though not altogether abandoned, is necessarily suffered to languish. At present, the public resources are so deeply involved in the prosecution of measures vast in their extent, and rich in their promise of future prosperity to the State, that objects of less im-

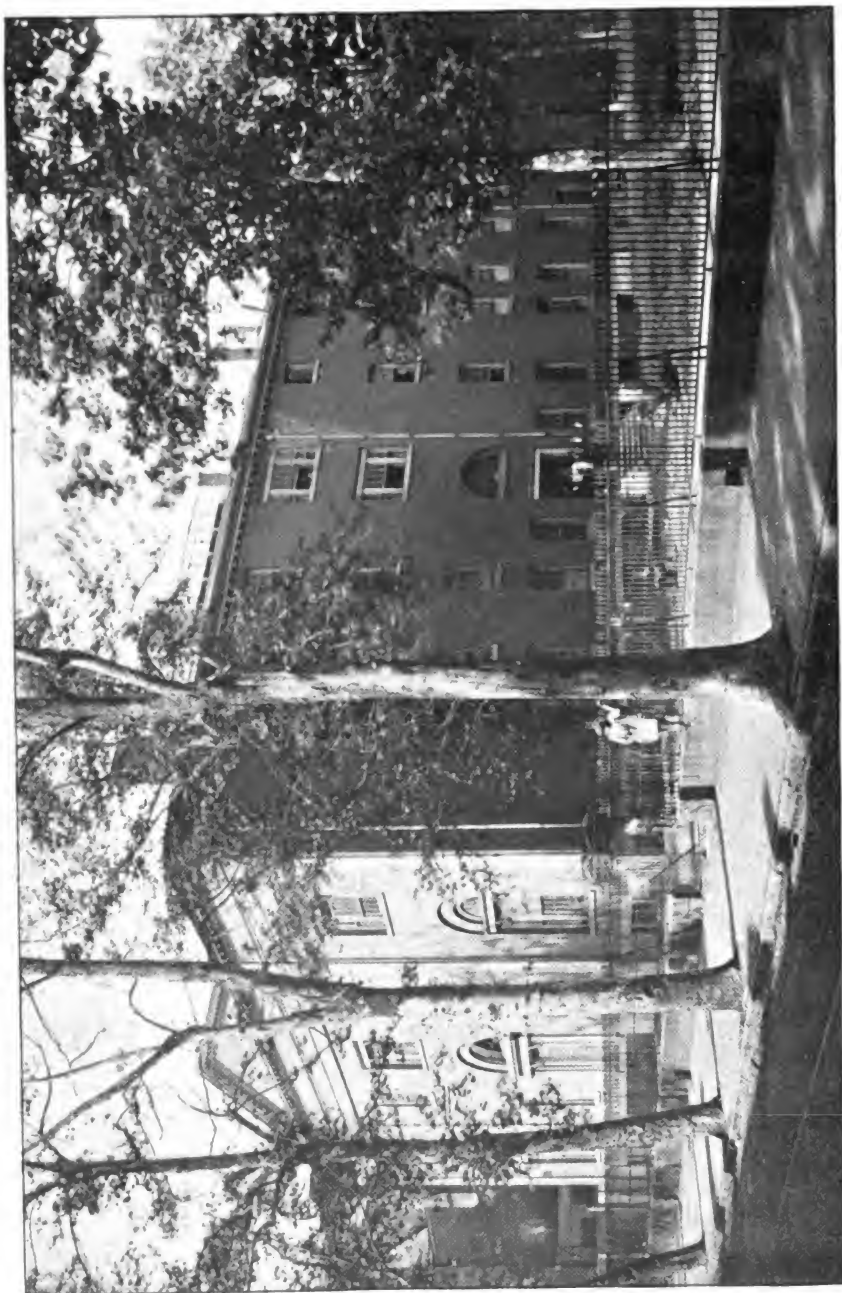
portance are perhaps wisely overlooked. But when the promise of these measures shall have been fulfilled, we may reasonably hope that the overflowings of the public treasury will be largely directed into the fields of science, and that the botanic garden of the University will be among the first to feel their reviving and invigorating influence.

3 and 4. The DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL LITERATURE and the DEPARTMENT OF LAW are at present altogether nominal. Each of them contains a single professorship: but that of law is vacant by the recent death of Charles W. Hare; and that of general literature, though occupied by a gentleman whose qualifications for the office might safely challenge a comparison with those of any other man in the country, does not afford sufficient inducements to call off his attention from more pleasing or more profitable pursuits.\*

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\* Both these departments have been abolished.—*January, 1834.* With regard to the Law Department, see note on page 116.—*Note to the present edition.*





MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY.

(ERECTED IN 1829.)

5. THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.—In this department the business of instruction is committed to six professors, occasionally assisted by adjuncts, who, like their principals, are appointed by the trustees. These professors constitute a faculty, to which, subject to the rules and statutes of the board, belongs the government of the medical school, and the arrangement of all the affairs of the department. One of their number, with the title of dean, is appointed to perform the duties of secretary to the faculty, and to act as their organ of communication with the students. The medical professors receive no salary; but the profits of their lectures render their office highly productive. The following is a list of the several professors, with the chairs which they respectively occupy:—

Philip Syng Physick, M.D., Professor of Anatomy;

Nathaniel Chapman, M.D., Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic, and of Clinical Medicine;

William Gibson, M.D., Professor of Surgery;

John Redman Coxe, M.D., Professor of  
Materia Medica, and of Pharmacy ;

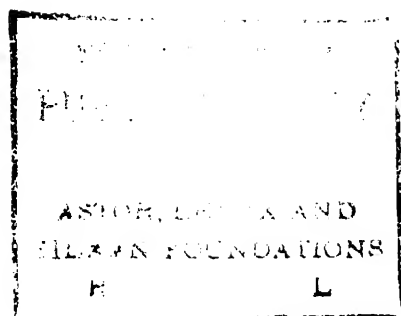
Robert Hare, M.D., Professor of Chem-  
istry ;

Thomas C. James, M.D., Professor of  
Midwifery ;

William E. Horner, M.D., Adjunct Pro-  
fessor of Anatomy ; and

William P. Dewees, M.D., Adjunct Pro-  
fessor of Midwifery.

Full courses of lectures, about four months in duration, are annually delivered upon each of these branches, with the single exception of the institutes of medicine, which, being attached to the subject of the practice, of itself the most copious in the whole round of the science, forms a burden too heavy for the powers of one individual, however expanded may be his intellect, and vigorous his application. It is to be hoped, however, that means will be provided to supply this deficiency, either by the appointment of an adjunct, or by the creation of a new professorship. It is indeed impossible, that in a system of instruction, in all other respects so perfect,





PHILIP SYNG PHYSICK, M.D.

one of the chief pillars upon which the science of medicine rests, should be long allowed to be wanting.\*

The degrees conferred in the medical department are those of Doctor of Medicine, and Master of Pharmacy. To be admitted to the former of these honours, it is required that the candidate should have attained the age of twenty-one years; should have been three years engaged in the study of medicine, and at least two years of this period under some respectable practitioner; should have attended two full courses of lectures in the University,† and one course of clinical instruction

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\* Since this account was written, Dr. Physick has retired from the school with the title of "Emeritus Professor of Surgery and Anatomy;" and has been succeeded by his former adjunct, Dr. Horner. The deficiency noticed in the text, in relation to the institutes of medicine, has been supplied by the appointment of Samuel Jackson, M.D., as assistant to the professor of the institutes and practice of physic and clinical medicine.—*January, 1834.*

† With regard to this requisite, an exception is made in favour of those who have attended one or more courses in any respectable medical school in which the

in the Pennsylvania Hospital or city Almshouse; should have written a dissertation on some medical subject, to be approved by the faculty; and, finally, have undergone a satisfactory examination by the professors, as to the extent of his acquirements, and his fitness for the practice of the profession.

Every medical student, upon entering the University, is obliged to pay five dollars as a matriculating fee. The price of admittance to the course of each profession is twenty dollars; and the aggregate cost of tuition for two years is two hundred and forty dollars.\* The expenses of graduation amount to forty dollars, of which each of the principal medical professors receives five, the provost three, the vice-provost two, and five dollars are paid to the secretary of the Board of Trustees, which, after

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same subjects are taught as in the University of Pennsylvania. Of these it is only required that they should attend one full course of the medical lectures.

\* After attending two courses of each professor, the student has the privilege of being admitted to the lectures without charge.

defraying the cost of the diploma, is appropriated to the increase and preservation of the anatomical museum.

As young men of high natural endowments, and strong inclination to the medical profession, are often deterred from entering into it by their inability to bear the necessary charges, a proposition was very generously made by the faculty to the Board of Trustees, that a permanent provision should be made for the gratuitous education of six students, to be selected from among those who might appear most deserving and most in need of assistance. A regulation to this effect was accordingly adopted, and has now been several years in force. A committee is annually appointed by the board, who give public notice that they will receive applications for gratuitous tickets of admission to the lectures ; and at a suitable time previously to the commencement of the regular courses, the several applications which have been handed in are examined and decided on. In every instance, testimonials are required, that the applicant is of good moral character, and

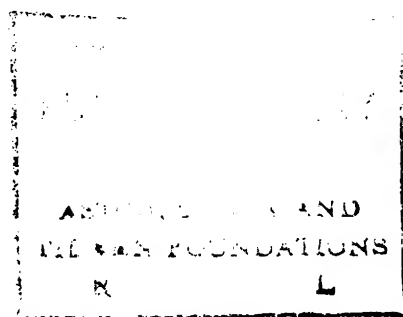
of studious habits ; that his literary attainments are respectable ; and that his circumstances are such as to render him a suitable object of the gratuity.

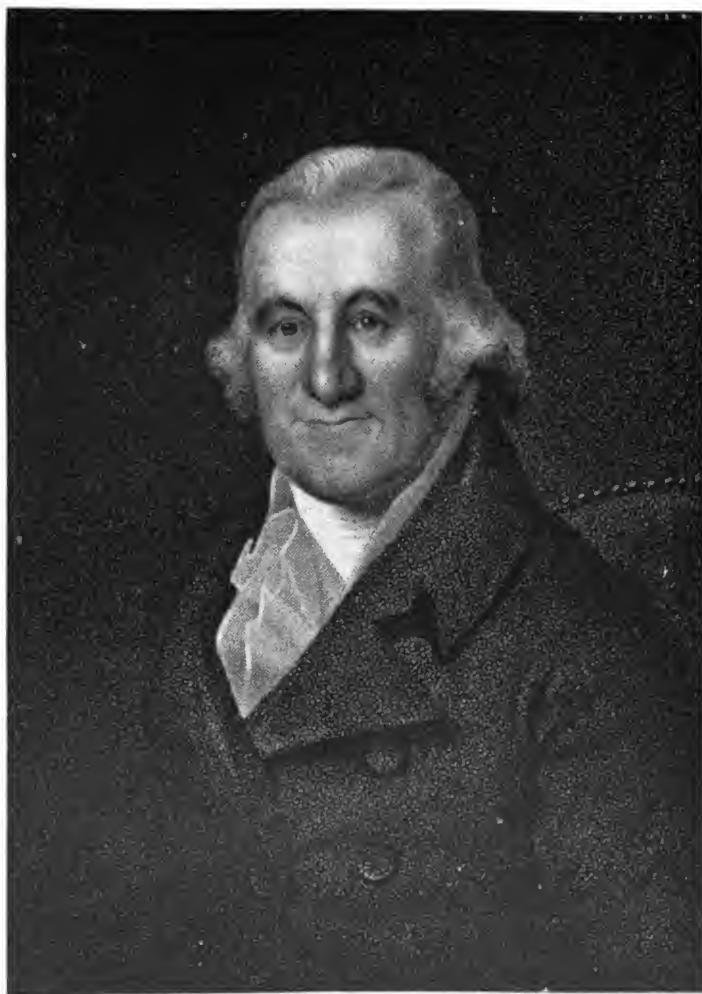
The number of students attending the medical lectures in the University averages about four hundred and fifty ; and the annual number of graduates has for the last five years varied from ninety-six to one hundred and thirty-one.\*

The degree of Master of Pharmacy was instituted, a few years since, with the very laudable view of improving the profession of the apothecary, which in this city has assumed an importance far beyond what it possesses in other parts of the United States. Any person is entitled to the degree, who shall have served an apprenticeship of at least three years with a respectable apothecary, and attended two courses

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\* In the winter of 1824-5, there were four hundred and eighty-four students in the medical class. For the last seven years they have averaged about four hundred. The number attending the present course is four hundred and thirty-one.—*January, 1834.*





CASPAR WISTAR, M.D.

of lectures on chemistry and materia medica in the University. Advantages would no doubt have accrued from this accession to the original plan of the medical department, had it not been superseded by the establishment by the apothecaries themselves of a distinct school, which, being under their own management, and directed to the one object of advancing the usefulness and respectability of the profession, is naturally more popular, and at least equally efficient.\*

Reference has been made, on a previous occasion, to the existence of an anatomical museum, connected with the department of medicine. It is generally known among medical men, that the late Dr. Wistar was indefatigable in collecting together specimens and preparations both in healthy and morbid anatomy, with models and other

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\* See Historical Memoirs of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. A discourse read at the opening of the New College Hall, October 7th, 1868, by Edward Parrish, Philadelphia, 1869.—*Note to the present edition.*

representations of parts of the human frame, calculated to illustrate his course of anatomical lectures ; and they who have had the pleasure of listening to his instruction well remember, how delightfully plain and lucid the most intricate and obscure parts of his subject were rendered by his sedulous efforts to demonstrate to the eye, what could not be well understood from description alone. After his death, his family presented to the University this extensive and highly valuable collection, which was thankfully received by the trustees, and, in honour of its distinguished author, as well as in commemoration of the liberality of the gift, was styled the Wistar Museum. A suitable apartment was provided for its reception ; and appropriations of money were from time to time made for its preservation and increase. In the year 1824 it was greatly enlarged by the addition of the anatomical collection of the Pennsylvania Hospital, which the managers of that institution, with an honourable liberality, transferred to the charge of the trustees of the University, under the impression

that, in the medical school, it might be applied to more useful purposes than it could be, if retained in their own possession. The whole museum is placed under the immediate care of the professor of anatomy, who finds, in its diversified contents, the means of giving greater interest and increased efficiency to his lectures.

In the foregoing account of the University, it is believed that all the facts, worthy of notice, have been embraced. The reader will have perceived that, in the composition of the whole memoir, nothing higher has been aimed at than simple and perspicuous narration: he will therefore be guided in forming a judgment of its merits, less by the manner in which it has been executed, than by the value of the matter it contains. Judged even upon this principle, it may be thought by some undeserving of the space which it occupies: but it pretends only to local interest; and, if it excite among the inhabitants of Philadelphia increased attention to the claims of an institution which is intimately connected with the honour and welfare of the city, it

will have accomplished the chief object for which it was written.\*

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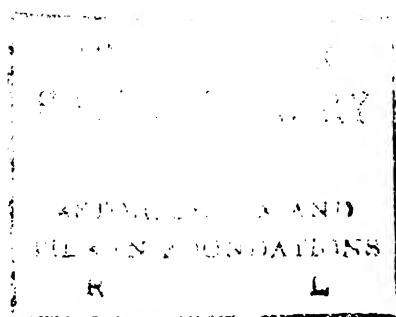
\* Since the year 1827, when this history was first published, many changes have been made in the University, some of which have been referred to in notes which were introduced on the occasion of its republication in 1834. Still greater changes have been made subsequently to the last-mentioned date, of which those which concern the Medical Department will be found recorded in the history of that department, prepared a short time since by Prof. Joseph Carson, M.D., of the medical faculty, to which allusion has been already made. The author would have great pleasure in bringing down his narrative to the present times, which are likely to constitute an important era in the history of the school, in consequence of its contemplated removal to the recently purchased grounds in West Philadelphia; but he is compelled to forego this satisfaction, by his increasing age and infirmities, which render the necessary researches impossible.—*Feb.* 1872.

# **SUPPLEMENTARY CHAPTERS**

**BY**

**FREDERICK D. STONE.**







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BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

FROM A MINIATURE PORTRAIT IN THE POSSESSION OF HIS GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER, MRS E. D. GILLESPIE.

## CHAPTER XV.

THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSITY.—FRANKLIN  
AND THE ACADEMY.

WHEN this history was written, the author used all the material that was then accessible in its preparation, and the conclusions he arrived at were unquestioned. Since then, however, certain views have been expressed regarding the origin of the University, which, if correct, ascribe to it a different source from that wherefrom Dr. Wood supposed it sprung; while another view concedes to Franklin very different intentions in establishing the Academy from what his own statements lead us to suppose he entertained. Besides this, new matter has been discovered throwing additional light upon the early history of the institution, relating particularly to Dr. Smith's appointment in it, and to the

means taken to interest Thomas Penn in its welfare. In the following chapters we propose to review these subjects and add such new facts as have been gathered.

It is claimed that the University had its origin, not in the natural development of the Academy which Franklin and other public-spirited citizens were active in establishing in 1749, but in the Charity School connected with the "New Building," which was begun in 1740, for the accommodation of the Rev. George Whitefield and other itinerant ministers who should visit Philadelphia.\*

This claim is based on the following facts: That the establishment of a charity school was a part of the object for which the money subscribed for the "New Building" in 1740 was obtained; that the property acquired by the trustees of the building passed into the hands of the trustees of the Academy, who bound themselves to maintain a school for the education of poor children gratis; that the Charity

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\* See page 9.

School was thus succeeded by the Academy, as the Academy was subsequently succeeded by the College, and the College by the University;\* that the Charter received by the trustees of the Academy in 1753 was for the Academy and Charity School of Philadelphia, and that the name of the Charity School appears in all the charters granted to the Academy, to the College, or to the University; that the transfer of the property by the trustees of the "New Building" to the trustees of the Academy was merely an enlargement of the scheme entertained by the former, giving power to the latter to erect on the property an "Academy, college, or other seminary of learning, for instructing youth in the languages, arts, and sciences;" that

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\* The late Thompson Westcott, in his "Historic Mansions of Philadelphia," goes farther, and says that the proposals for a school which Franklin drew up in 1743 (see page 5) were for the establishment of the Charity School in connection with the New Building, and then by inference connects Franklin's plan of 1749 with the Charity School. There is nothing to support this statement or this inference, and Franklin's plan of 1743 is not known to exist.

the Charity School is a part of the University, cannot be separated from it, and, as the proposition to establish it antedates the origin of any other school or department of the University, the date of that proposition is the date of the origin of the University.

If the origin of such an institution is to be sought in the title-deeds of the property it holds, and not by following the line of its corporate existence back to the beginning of the oldest department in unison with its character, then some such claim as the above, placing the origin of the University at 1740, might be established.

Before accepting this theory, however, it will be well to examine the history of the Charity School, and to consider the original aims of the Academy.

The history of the building erected by the friends of Whitefield for religious worship and for a charity school is given by Dr. Wood.\*

It is safe to say that no school was held

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\* See page 9.

within its walls until the opening of the Latin and English schools by the trustees of the Academy in January, 1751. No charity school had been opened up to August, 1747,\* as in that month a petition was presented to the Assembly by some of the subscribers to the New Building, stating that the establishment of a charity school was a part of the original scheme; that none had been established; and they therefore prayed that the trustees be obliged to repay the petitioners their subscriptions, or that an act be passed to sell the building and devote the proceeds to that purpose. It is not probable that any school was opened between 1747 and 1749, as the deed conveying the property to the trustees of the Academy does not stipulate that they shall continue the Charity School, but that they shall open one in two years. So, too, in the representation made by the trustees to the

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\* See Votes of Assembly, vol. iv., page 59. Misquoted in Smith's "Life of Smith" as 1749. See vol. i., page 53.

Common Council of Philadelphia (July 31, 1750), asking for assistance, they do not say that they will continue a charity school, but that they propose "erecting a Public Academy and Charity School;" and again, that "they have engaged to open a Charity School within two years, for the instruction of Poor Children gratis in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, and the first Principles of Virtue and Piety." The first mention we find in the minutes of the trustees regarding the Charity School is under date of April 9, 1751.\*

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\* It is true it is referred to on the margin of the constitution of the Academy which is written on the opening pages of the first volume of the minutes of the trustees, and precedes the minutes. Opposite to that clause in which it is hoped that the time will come when poor children shall be admitted and taught gratis, some one has written CHARITY SCHOOL. The difference in the handwriting shows that the words were interpolated, and the handwriting looks very much like that of Dr. Smith. The fact, however, has no weight in the present argument. The passage opposite which the words are written does not propose the establishment of a charity school, but the free teaching to poor children of such things, taught in the Academy, as were thought suitable to their understanding. If a contrary

It is there stated that in accordance with their agreement such a school ought to be opened "very speedily." It was not until the following August, however, that a suitable master was found, when George Price was engaged at thirty pounds per annum, and his wood in winter, to teach twenty boys; and it was ordered that as soon as an agreement with him was reduced to writing and signed, advertisement should be made "that the Trustees are ready to open a Charity School."

In the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of September 12, 1751, the following appeared: "By order of the Trustees of the Academy, notice is hereby given that on Monday, the 16th of this September, a Free School will be opened under this Care and Direction, at the New Building, for the instruction of poor children gratis in reading, writing and arithmetic. Those who are

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interpretation be placed on the passage it will merely prove that the founders of the Academy contemplated the establishment of a charity school in 1749, not that this proposed one was identical with the one proposed in 1740.

desirous of having their children admitted may apply to any of the Trustees."

It will be seen from this that for eleven years this school existed—if it can be said to have existed at all—only on paper, and in that form alone can claim to antedate the Academy. The deed transferring the property to the trustees of the Academy does not show that the trustees of the "New Building" had enlarged their scheme for the education of youth. The reason given for the transfer was that by it the pious purposes for which the subscriptions were obtained could be carried out. By this deed the trustees of the "New Building" bound the trustees of the Academy to do certain things which they ought to have done themselves; and then, to show that the transfer of the property did not confine its use to such purposes alone, gave the same trustees permission to carry out the plan the latter had formulated for an academy and a college before negotiations were begun. It would have been a breach of trust had the trustees of the "New Building" established any kind of educational

institution with the money they had collected that would not have been free to all, and, as they were unable to secure the means to open a charity school, it is not to be supposed that, in the face of that failure, they enlarged their views to include a free Academy or College. The trustees of the Academy and those of the "New Building" were, with the exception of Franklin, different individuals. Those of the Academy are given by Dr. Wood.\* Those of the "New Building" named in the deed transferring the property were: Edmund Woolly, John Coates, Rev. George Whitefield, William Seward, John Stephen Benezet, Thomas Noble, Samuel Hazard, Robert Eastburn, James Read, Edward Evans, and Charles Brockden.

In 1749 the title rested in the names of Woolly and Coates, and they, upon the petition of the others, who formed a majority of the original managing trustees, conveyed the property to the Academy.†

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\* See foot-note, page 7.

† Franklin in his autobiography says he was a member of both Boards of Trustees, and mentions no other

The Academy, therefore, did not grow out of the Charity School as the College grew out of the Academy, in which case the charter of the one supplemented the charter of the other, and was given to the same Board of Trustees, thus preserving a continuous corporate existence.

The history and development of the Academy are sufficiently treated by Dr. Wood. Its objects were entirely different from those of the Charity School. The one was to improve the educational conditions of the province by establishing an institution in which higher branches of learning could be pursued. The other was to furnish an education gratis, and the education it was proposed to furnish was inferior in character to that which could have been obtained in existing schools. Nor is it probable that the Charity School ever contributed more to the growth of the Academy, the College, or the Univer-

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person similarly situated. As he was not one of the original trustees, his name does not appear in the deed. Those given above constituted a majority of the original managing trustees. It is possible that there were others.

sity than did another feature of the agreements by which the "New Building" became the property of the Academy. That was, that a room should be kept for the free use of Mr. Whitefield whenever he should visit Philadelphia.

That one early interested in the College, and conversant with its history, did not look upon it as having sprung from the "Charity School," can be seen from Dr. Smith's address to the Assembly in 1788, praying for the restoration of the College charter and property to its Trustees. In it he says, "The College of Philadelphia . . . had its foundation in the year 1749, from proposals made and published by that great friend of learning, Dr. Franklin, with whom were associated" the trustees named by Dr. Wood.\* These men, Dr. Smith declared, were the founders of the College; and this assertion was made while others were living who could have contradicted him had it not been true. The purchase of the "New Building"

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\* See foot-note, page 7.

he mentions as simply a business transaction.

We have endeavoured to give all the important facts on both sides of the question, and will leave it to the mind of the reader to determine whether the origin of the University should date from the first attempt to establish a primary school which, through a purely business transaction, became a part of its system, though it has not contributed to the growth of the institution; or whether it should date from the beginning of a liberal movement taking form in the establishment of an Academy, which in its development and in accordance with the aims of its founders has given to Pennsylvania her chief institution of learning.

The assertion has been so frequently made that Franklin was the founder of the University, that it has led to a general impression that while writing his pamphlet of 1749, entitled "Proposals relating to the Education of Youth in Pennsylvania," he was looking towards the establishment of some such institution as was afterwards

known as the Academy, and that this resulted from the value he placed upon a liberal education, in the usually accepted meaning of the words.

There can be no doubt that the Academy was called into being by Franklin's public-spiritedness. Richard Peters said, in 1749, that he was the "soul of the whole movement;" but there were others concerned with him, with whom he must share the honour, and the pamphlet in question shows that the Academy, when established, was not the kind of school he proposed.

His intention was to establish a school in which a good English education could be acquired, together with a thorough knowledge of mathematics. History was to have been one of its chief features, and this was to include a history of commerce, invention, the arts, the rise of manufactures, the progress of trade, etc. A knowledge of agriculture was also suggested. "It would," he said, "be well if the students could be taught everything that is useful and everything that is ornamental. But art is long and their time is short. It is

therefore proposed that they learn the things that are likely to be most useful and most ornamental."

It was not his intention to exclude the study of Latin and Greek, but he would have taught those languages only to students who proposed to follow the learned professions, and those who had an ardent desire to learn them. He appreciated the advantages of a classical education, but did not think that a school in which its acquirement was made the chief end was suited to the community in which he lived. In fact, the school he would have established would have been similar in character to a technical school of the present day. The information to be gained in such a school was, he thought, of more importance than the training acquired by a study of the classics; and if the information he proposed to impart was extended to cover a knowledge of French and Italian, the mind of the student would be prepared to receive, with very little exertion, a knowledge of Latin; and if this exertion was not made, the student would have learned

two languages that could hardly fail to be of use to him. His views on this subject were not influenced by the experience of his subsequent life. In 1751 he proposed for the consideration of the trustees a course of studies to be pursued in the Academy, but confined his suggestions to the English school.

In 1789, after the union of the College of Philadelphia and the University of the State of Pennsylvania had been accomplished, he wrote an elaborate paper "relative to the intentions of the original founders of the Academy," in which he charged the trustees with having neglected the English school, one of the important features of the original plan of the Academy when it was established.

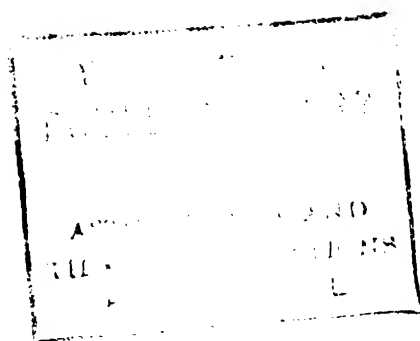
His language at times grew pathetic: "I am the only one of the original trustees now living, and I am just stepping into the grave," he wrote. "I am afraid that some part of the blame incurred by the trustees may be laid on me, for having too easily submitted to the deviations from the constitution, and not opposing them with

sufficient zeal and earnestness; though indeed my absence in foreign countries at different times for near thirty years, tended much to weaken my influence. To make what amends are yet in my power, I seize this opportunity, the last I may possibly have, of bearing testimony against those deviations. I seem to be here surrounded by the ghosts of my dear departed friends, beckoning and urging me to use the only tongue now left us, in demanding that justice to our grandchildren that to our children has been denied, and I hope they will not be sent away discontented."

How, it may well be asked, was it that the Academy, which Franklin was so active in founding, should have been from the first, to a great extent, a classical institute, when he entertained the views he has repeatedly expressed? The answer is to be found in his own writings. He submitted his views to some of his friends, who concurred with him; "but," says he, "Mr. Allen, Mr. Francis, Mr. Peters, and some other persons of wealth and learning, whose subscriptions and countenance we should



TENCH FRANCIS.



need, were of opinion that it ought to include the learned languages." When the trustees met, as if to emphasize their desire that the teaching of Latin should be considered an important feature in the Academy, and in direct opposition to Franklin's wishes, the salary of the Latin master was fixed at two hundred pounds per annum, and that of the English master at one hundred pounds; the latter being required to teach twice as many scholars as the former. The salary of the English master was soon increased to one hundred and fifty pounds, but Franklin complained that more money was spent in encouraging the Latin school than the English. "But," he wrote, "I submitted my judgment to theirs, retaining, however, a strong prepossession in favour of my first plan, and resolving to preserve as much of it as I could, and to nourish the English school by every means in my power."

It was therefore owing to the influence of just such men as we should naturally suppose would advocate such measures—men like Mr. Allen, Mr. Francis, and Mr.

Peters—that the Latin and Greek school was made part of the Academy ; and the person most active in making it successful was the Rev. William Smith, whom, strange to say, Franklin was more instrumental than any other man in bringing to Philadelphia.



*To the Honourable Thomas Penn Esq*

A  
GENERAL IDEA  
OF THE  
COLLEGE  
OF  
MIRANIA;

WITH  
A Sketch of the Method of teaching *Science* and  
*Religion*, in the several Classes:

AND  
Some Account of its Rise, Establishment and Buildings.

Address'd more immediately to the Consideration  
of the Trustees nominated, by the Legislature, to  
receive Proposals, &c. relating to the Establishment  
of a COLLEGE in the Province of *NEW-YORK*.

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*Quid Leges sine Moribus vanae proficiunt?* Hor.  
*Nullum Animal morosius est; nullum majore Arte tractandum quam*  
*Homo. Natura sequitur melius quam ducitur.* Seneca.

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NEW-YORK:  
Printed and Sold by J. PARKER and W. WEYMAN, at  
the New Printing-Office in Beaver-Street, 1753.  
[Price One Shilling and Six Pence.]

[FAC-SIMILE OF THE TITLE-PAGE OF THE COPY OF  
"A GENERAL IDEA OF THE COLLEGE OF MIRANIA,"  
PRESENTED BY DR. SMITH TO DR. PETERS, THROUGH FRANKLIN,  
APRIL 30, 1753, AND SENT BY THE LATTER TO  
THOMAS PENN.]

## CHAPTER XVI.

“THE COLLEGE OF MIRANIA.”—STEPS THAT  
LED TO DR. SMITH’S CONNECTION WITH  
THE ACADEMY.

DR. CHARLES J. STILLÉ, whilst Provost of the University, was the first to call attention to the fact that the choice of Dr. Smith as Professor of Philosophy in the Academy was not simply a fortuitous circumstance that led to important results, but was made for the express purpose of enabling him to carry out, in the Academy of Philadelphia, a scheme of education which he had set forth in a pamphlet entitled “A General Idea of the College of Mirania,”—a purely fictitious institution, the picturing of which Dr. Smith employed as the means of showing the kind of college he thought suitable for a new country.

The chief feature in this proposed college was the Latin school, in which the student would have the opportunity of acquiring a more liberal education than it was then possible to acquire in any educational institution in America. In connection with this was a school of mechanics, similar in character to what Franklin would have had the Academy of Philadelphia, in which an English education was provided for those who did not propose to follow the learned professions. College and School were under the same Board of Trustees and Masters. Most of the branches of science taught in the College were taught in the School, but in a more compendious manner; the intention being to give those who had neither the time nor the use for a college education some idea of the arts and sciences,—a proposition calculated to appeal strongly to a large class in a prosperous trading community.

It was the desire to put this combined scheme into active operation that led to Dr. Smith's connection with the Academy of Philadelphia; but to understand clearly

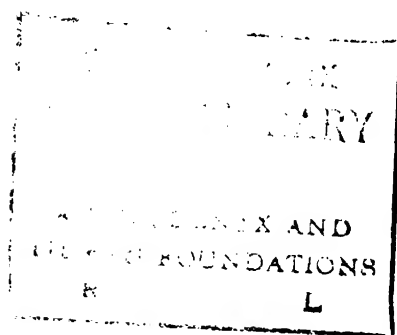
how this came about, and to appreciate his zeal in the cause of education, a few words must be said concerning his early life.

He was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, September 7th, 1727. He at first attended the parish school, but at the age of seven was taken charge of by the Society for the Education of Parochial School-masters. In 1741 he entered the University of Aberdeen, and resided there for the full term of years required for his first degree, which his biographer says he received in 1747; but we have been informed that his name does not appear on the list of graduates of that institution.

In the latter part of the year 1749, or early in that following, he removed to London. It may be presumed that he was then a member of the Church of England, as he bore letters to the Archbishop of Canterbury and was patronized by that prelate. If his parents, therefore, were not members of that Church, it is evident that his connection with it was formed before he left Scotland. He was then interested in the cause of education. In October,

1750, he published in the *Scots Magazine* a scheme for augmenting the salaries of established or parochial school-masters in Scotland, which he had prepared in Scotland the previous year. In the following January he published "A Memorial for the Established or Parochial School-masters in Scotland, addressed to the great men in Parliament, etc.," which is signed "William Smith, Commissioner of said School-masters."

Failing to find encouragement in the work in which he was engaged, and no permanent employment offering, in May, 1751, he sailed for America, having in his charge two sons of Colonel Martin, of New York, who were returning home, and bearing with him letters of recommendation from the Archbishop of Canterbury to Governor DeLancey, of New York. Arriving in America, he accepted the position of tutor in the family of Colonel Martin. While thus employed, the question of establishing an academy or college in New York was agitated; and in support of this scheme, in 1752, he wrote a pamphlet





RICHARD PETERS, D.D.

entitled "Some Thoughts on Education: with Reasons for Erecting a College in this Province, and fixing the same at the City of New York," etc.

This was followed the next year by "A General Idea of a College of Mirania," written for the same object.

He says he received his essay from the printer on April 1st, 1753, and sent copies to Dr. Franklin and the Rev. Richard Peters, who, he evidently knew, were the active spirits in the management of the Academy of Philadelphia. How forcibly Franklin was struck with the views expressed in the pamphlet, is shown by the promptness with which he acknowledged it. He could not at the time have given it more than a cursory examination, but he saw in it sufficient to know that it was the work of a man deeply interested in a subject that was then uppermost in his own mind, and on the 19th of April he wrote:

"I received your new piece on Education, which I shall carefully peruse and give you my sentiments of it, as you desire, by next post. If it suits you to visit Philadelphia before your return to Europe, I shall be

extremely glad to see and converse with you here, as well as to correspond with you after your settlement in England ; for an acquaintance and communication with men of Learning, Virtue, and Public Spirit is one of my greatest enjoyments. I do not know whether you ever happened to see the first Proposals I made for erecting this Academy. I send them enclosed. They had (however imperfect) the desired success ; being followed with a subscription of Four Thousand Pounds, towards carrying them into execution. And as we are fond of receiving advice and are daily improving by experience, I am in hopes we shall in a few years see a perfect institution."

On May 3d he again wrote to Dr. Smith as follows :

"Mr. Peters has just now been with me, and we have compared notes on your new piece. We find nothing in the scheme of education, however excellent, but what is in our opinion very practicable. The great difficulty will be to find the Aratus (the name given in the essay to the principal or head of the college) and other suitable persons in New York to carry it into execution ; but such may be had if proper encouragement be given. We have both received great pleasure in the perusal of it. For my part, I know not when I have read a piece that has so affected me, so noble and just are the sentiments, so warm and animated the language."

If Dr. Franklin and Mr. Peters entertained a doubt as to the possibility of a

suitable person being found to carry out the proposed system of education in New York, they saw in Dr. Smith the possible "Aratus" to put it into effect in Philadelphia.

There can be no doubt that Dr. Smith's views on education as expressed in his essay went far beyond anything that Franklin had thought out on the subject. The one was a trained educator; the other, a practical man of affairs, of clear common sense, quick to discern when the tide was in his favour and when against him. His correspondence with Dr. Smith began at a time when the affairs of the Academy, so far as the instructors were concerned, were not satisfactory. The Latin school had lost its master, the Rector, Mr. Martin; and the agreement with his successor, Mr. Alison, was either not then of a permanent character, or he was not satisfactory, for Franklin wrote shortly afterwards that the trustees would be glad to settle a Rector over the Academy. The English school had been more successful, possibly through Franklin's interest and his determination

to foster it. Its head-master, Mr. Dove, had made it very popular. A public recitation was given. The parents and relations of the boys attended. The performances were surprisingly good, and were admired and applauded; and the English school thereby acquired such reputation that the number of Mr. Dove's scholars soon amounted to upwards of ninety. Then came Dove's quarrel with the trustees, who would not permit him to devote a portion of his time to the conducting of a girls' school. It occurred early in the year 1753. He resigned, and before the summer was over, the school had fallen away one-half. This was the condition of things in April, 1753, when Franklin received a copy of the description of the College of Mirania. It is probable that Franklin did not altogether approve of the prominence given to the Latin school, but if a man could be found to preside over the Academy who could create such a school as the school of mechanics Smith proposed, and at the same time conduct a Latin and Greek school, Franklin's object

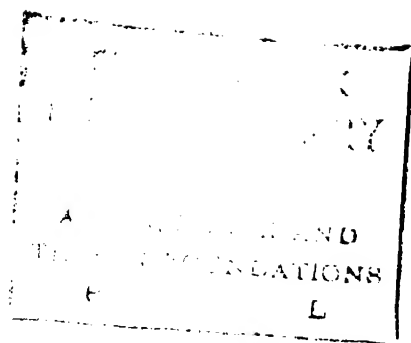
would be accomplished, and the views of his wealthy and influential trustees would be also carried out. Consequently, when Dr. Smith accepted Franklin's invitation to visit Philadelphia, he was warmly welcomed.

When he visited the Academy he was greeted by one of the scholars, who repeated some verses he had written on science, probably those prefixed to the account of the College of Mirania. He examined the scholars, remained in the city two weeks, addressed a letter and some complimentary verses to the trustees of the Academy, which were printed, and then returned to New York.

It was his intention to go to England to take holy orders, and it was evidently an open question in his mind whether or not he would again visit America. Before he sailed, Franklin made him some kind of offer to connect himself with the Academy, and, while it is clear that it was not considered sufficiently attractive to keep him in America, it was not positively declined. The condition of affairs is best shown in

what followed. Before he sailed, Franklin wrote :

“Matters relating to the Academy remain *in statu quo*. The trustees would be glad to see a rector established there, but they dread entering into new engagements, till they are got out of debt ; and I have not yet got them wholly over to my opinion, that a good professor, or teacher of the higher branches of learning, would draw so many scholars as to pay great part, if not the whole of his Salary. Thus, unless the Proprietors of the province shall think fit to put the finishing hand to our institution, it must, I fear, wait some few years longer before it can arrive at that state of perfection, which to me it seems now capable of ; and all the pleasure I promised myself in seeing you settled among us vanishes into smoke. But good Mr. Collinson writes me word that no endeavours of his shall be wanting ; and he hopes, with the Archbishop’s assistance, to be able to prevail with our Proprietors. I pray God grant them success.”





THOMAS PENN.

## CHAPTER XVII.

## THOMAS PENN AND THE ACADEMY.

THE people of Pennsylvania at that time naturally looked to the Proprietors as a source from which assistance should flow when needed to support public-spirited measures. Consequently the Penn family had been constantly reminded of the existence of the Academy, and there are in the "Penn Papers" in the Historical Society several boyish compositions which were sent to England for the edification of Thomas Penn, the head of the family, written by students attending the Academy.

These attentions were not wasted, for in 1753, when the trustees of the Academy, as stated by Dr. Wood, applied to Thomas Penn for a charter, it was promptly granted, and was accompanied with a gift of five hundred pounds. The trustees passed a resolution thanking the Proprietors for

their generosity, but the committee to draft the letter did not act as promptly as they should have done, and on November 1, 1753, Thomas Penn wrote: "We have not received from the Academy any acknowledgment of the receipt of the charter or five hundred pounds which our receiver has paid, which, we think, is a neglect such a present did not deserve." Fortunately, Franklin and Peters did not know that the Proprietor was feeling nettled at this want of courtesy on their part, or they might not have made an appeal for additional assistance, feeling that the times were not propitious for a favourable reply. The appeal was made, however, but indirectly.

Franklin, as we have seen, enlisted the services of Collinson. Mr. Peters sent Thomas Penn his copy of the *College of Mirania*, and gave Dr. Smith the following letter of introduction to him:

"HONOURED SIR:

"Our Academy is at present in such repute that we have sixty five Boys from the neighbouring Colonies now educating in it. Col. Martin brought his three Boys

Since I am entering upon a Subject so noble,  
so extensive, & so far superior to my small Abilities,  
your Clemency, Gentlemen, would be very acceptable  
where there is such great Occasion for it: a Subject  
worthy the finest Discourses that Language<sup>can</sup> afford,  
and so copious that it is impossible to state of it in the  
Manner it deserves. — 'Tis Learning I speak of,  
than which indeed nothing can be more usefull, no-  
thing more becoming a rational Being. &c.

SINCE the worthy Gentlemen of this City, being  
fully sensible of this, have begun, & carry'd a Design  
so noble & usefull as that of instituting an Academy  
for the Instruction of Youth; — Since the honourable  
Proprietor & Governour have confirm'd & establish'd  
the same by the Privilege of a Charter, the least that  
we can do (who reap the Advantages of it) is to return  
them our hearty Thanks for their Kindness, & to render  
ourselves worthy their Benevolence by our Care & Indus-  
try. — — — — —

'Tis Learning which like an able <sup>artisan</sup> polishes the  
Diamond and discovers its Lustre & latent Beauties,  
'Tis Learning which makes a Man happy in himself  
& a blessing to his Country, 'Tis Learning which  
prepares us for Heaven & Perfection and makes a  
Mortal almost equal to the Angels themselves. &c.

How ~~justly~~ gloriously have the antient Romans  
sternd their Names by their Valour, Prudence,  
& Learning! How justly was their City stiled  
the Seat of Empire, the Mistress of the World, & the  
Glory of Nations. — — — — —

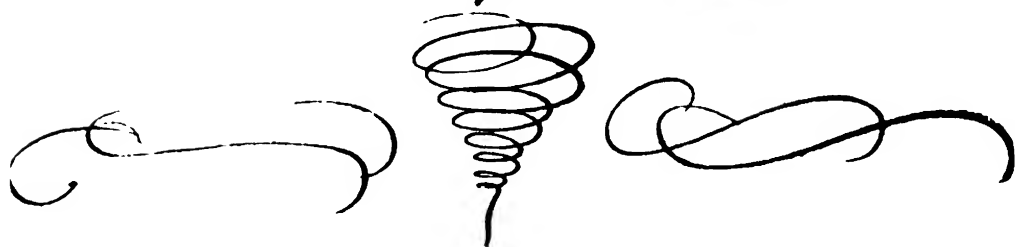
The Creator of the Universe seems to have made us  
for some great & noble End, & dare we frustrate his  
Designs by neglecting those glorious Talents, which  
he has implanted in us, dare we ~~not~~ disgrace  
this noble Form which he has given us by ever  
meanly groveling in our native Ignorance. — — —  
Alas! how unhappy are they who have not  
had the Advantages of a liberal Education,  
surely Life must be a burden to them & Time  
hang heavy on their Hands; but this shall  
never be said of Philad: while such generous  
such publick spirited Gentlemen bear any  
Sway in it. — — — — —

Let me conclude with saying that when I find  
the Muses attentive to my Invocations but  
alas! it is now only the Cry of a Child & unworthy  
the Notice of those delicate Deities, the illus-  
trious Name of Penn shall be my 'delightfull

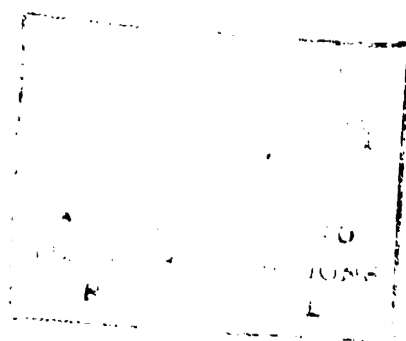
Theme, the Valours of the Grand-father, the  
Piety & Wisdom of the Father, the Improvements  
made by the Son on the Systems of Liberty & Policy  
shall elevate my Sentiments & give Eloquence &  
Energy to my Poetical Strains. — — —

Francis Hopkinson

1753



FAC-SIMILE OF A COMPOSITION WRITTEN BY FRANCIS HOPKINSON  
WHILE A STUDENT IN THE ACADEMY IN 1753, AND SENT TO THOMAS FENN.



here last Week from Long Island, and this gave me an opportunity of becoming acquainted with their Tutor the Author of the Pamphlet I sent you by Cap<sup>t</sup> Reeve. The just and copious manner in which that nice Subject is treated and the Spirit that so charmingly animates every Part of the Performance made me anxious lest he should go to England without visiting the Schools, and looking into, and giving us his Sentiments on our Proceedings. He has been here ten days and has made himself perfectly well acquainted with our Plan, and the Execution of it. And as I know it will give you Pleasure to receive an Account of the State of the Academy from a Person of Judgment and Impartiality, knowing he is going to England [in the] Expectation of th[e kin]d notice of the Arch Bishop of Canterbury, I desired him to take the Trouble of a Letter to you on purpose that you might learn from him not only what we are doing, but what is proposed to be done in other colonies for the Acquisition of Knowledge. His acquaintance will give you Pleasure in this and many other Respects, and I heartily recommend him to your Civilities of which he will shew himself worthy in a manner agreeable to you. I am

“Honoured Sir

“Your most obedient

“humble Servant

“RICHARD PETERS.

“PHILADELPHIA 5 June 1753.

“The Honourable Thomas Penn, Esquire.”

As soon as Dr. Smith arrived in England, he visited his friend and patron, the

Archbishop of Canterbury, who furnished him with the following letter to the Proprietor :

“ SIR :

“ The Bearer of this Mr W<sup>m</sup> Smith is desirous of being known & recommended to you, & I make no difficulty of taking the liberty of complying w<sup>th</sup> his request. He came to me from Scotland about 2 years ago, w<sup>th</sup> very ample Testimonials of his capacity & morals and affection to the King & our Constitution; Had he stayed here, I should have had my Eye upon him, but a good opportunity offering he went of, as Tutor to some young Lads, to N. York. How he behaved there, the enclosed Letters will inform you very fully, & at the same time give foundation to consider how proper he may be to support the important Character he aims at in the conduct of the infant College at Philadelphia. I have great reason to think him a good man, He is a Scholar & ingenious, & what is of the highest consequence of a temper fitted, as it seems to me to pursue a Plan of Education upon the large & generous footing of aiming at the Publick Good, w<sup>th</sup> no other Biass or partiality but preserving his Duty to the Constitution of his Mother Country, consistently w<sup>th</sup> a warm regard to the service of the Colonies, & the universal benefit of the various People that compose them. I think I am not mistaken in him, & if I am not, his youth may recommend him & he may become a very faithful & useful Tenant in a Country, in whose prosperity you have so strong an Interest. You will please to interrogate him & I believe you will be pleasd with the good sense & in-

genuousness w<sup>th</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> he will give answer to your questions.

“ I have the honour to be

“ Sir

“ Your obligd Humble Servant

“ THO: CANTUAR:

“ CROYDON HOUSE

“ Sept. 19, 1753.”

To this Thomas Penn replied :

“ MY LORD

“ Before I had the honour to receive your Grace's Letter I had an account transmitted to me of the bearer of it, with two pamphlets he wrote and printed in America on education, and as plans for an Academy there, which shewed him to be an ingenious man, capable of being of great use in those Countrys; my Friends had not then any expectation of his settling in Philadelphia and therefore made no application to me on that head; I am very glad he stands so fair in your Grace's good opinion, and you may rest assured I shal look on any recommendation you are pleased to give as a very great obligation, wel knowing your Grace would not on slight grounds mention any person for an undertaking of so great importance.

“ The Testimonials which I return your Grace are very full, and Mr Smith appears to me of a Temper and disposition fit for the Office, some of the Trustees have desired him to accept, and shal have my countenance and Friendship, whenever that can be of service to him.

"The Trustees there make the Appointment, from whom I expect Letters by the next Ships, in which I suppose they will communicate their intentions and I shal receive very great satisfaction in giving my assistance towards the settlement of so useful a man in the province.

"I am with the greatest respect

"My Lord

"Your Grace's much obliged and most obedient humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

"T. P."

The way had been well paved for Dr. Smith's visit to Penn, as will be seen by the following letter from the latter to Mr. Peters:

"Your Letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> of June was delivered to me by Mr Smith whose Pamphlet giving an account of the Colledge of Mirania afforded me great pleasure, the subject is indeed very clearly, and masterly handled; he was recommended to me by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who sent me the Letters that had been sent to his Grace, by Mr De Lancey & some Clergymen at New York, with full Testimonials of his behaviour there; and Mr Smith brought them hither to me, and staying two Nights I had an opportunity of conversing much with him, and find from an invitation of Mr Franklins, after he left Philadelphia he intends to accept of the Office of Rector of the Academy for sometime which I suppose all the Trustees will be much pleased with,

and will write to him soon on the Subject; His Learning you are no doubt fully apprised of, and his Temper & disposition appear to be well fitted for such an undertaking, indeed a Scheme of this sort seems almost entirely to engross his thoughts, and I make no doubt he will conduct it with great reputation. I believe I shall make your Society an annual present towards his Salary 'til I think of some other method to assist, you, or to settle another School which will not be 'til I see Pennsylvania." \*

On the 9th of the following March he again wrote :

"MR PETERS,

"Since I wrote you the 31<sup>st</sup> of October and acknowledged the Receipt of your Letter by Mr Smith I have frequently seen him and am very much pleased that he has accepted the offer made to him by Mr Franklin on the part of the Trustees of the Academy, and to shew my approbation of him as well as to give my assistance towards the support of the undertaking, I have agreed to give him fifty Pounds Currency a year in addition to what the Trustees settle on him for his salary. You know the situation of our affairs so well as to know whatever inclination I may have to found a school, or to assist one already established, it is not in my power to give any sum of money without doing injustice to my Family, the Interest of which

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\* From Penn Letter-Books, vol. iii. Letter of Thos. Penn to Mr. Peters, October 31st, 1753.

would be a support to a Master and pay for the Board & Education of two or three scholars to be named by me or my Family, this must be done by Land and I believe I shall appropriate my share of Perkassie as a part of it upon which there are I think seven Farms and which I desire you will inquire into the state of and send me the account you receive, this in time will yield a considerable Income.”\*

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\* Letter of Thomas Penn to Mr. Peters, March 9th, 1754.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

## DR. SMITH'S WORK IN THE ACADEMY AND COLLEGE.

HAVING been ordained deacon and priest in December, 1753, on the 5th of the following April Dr. Smith sailed for Philadelphia. Franklin and Peters were ignorant of the success he had met with. Indeed, they did not know that he had decided to accept Franklin's offer until shortly before his arrival. Thirteen days after he had sailed, Franklin wrote as follows :

“ PHILADELPHIA, April 18, 1754.

“ DEAR SIR,—I have had but one letter from you since your arrival in England, which was but a short one, *via* Boston, dated October 18th, acquainting me that you had written largely by Captain Davis—Davis was lost, and with him your letters, to my great disappointment—Mesnard and Gibbon have since arrived here, and I hear nothing from you. My comfort is an imagination that you only omit writing because you

are coming, and propose to tell me everything *viva voce*. So not knowing whether this letter will reach you, and hoping either to see or hear from you by the 'Myrtilla,' Captain Budden's ship which is daily expected, I only add, that I am with great esteem and affection

"Yours, etc.,

MR. SMITH.

B. FRANKLIN."

In the "Life and Correspondence of the Rev. William Smith, D.D.," by his great-grandson, Horace Wemyss Smith, a paper is quoted which is called the "Diary of Dr. Smith." It reads as follows:

"May 22, 1754. Landed in Philadelphia. Put up at the Ton Tavern on Chestnut Street, kept by Joseph Osborn."

"24th. I was this day inducted Provost of the College and Academy of Philadelphia and Professor of Natural Philosophy."

"25th. Commenced teaching in the Philosophy class, also ethics and rhetoric, to the advanced pupils. I have two classes, a senior and a junior one."

This document cannot be a contemporaneous diary, but is probably some memorandum, prepared late in life, when the exact order in which events occurred had

become confused in the writer's mind. In 1754 there was no College of Philadelphia, and consequently no office of Provost. This office was created a year afterwards, when the Academy received the charter of a College. Moreover, on the title-page of a sermon preached in September, 1754, by Dr. Smith, upon the death of one of his pupils, and printed that year, he speaks of himself as "Professor of Philosophy in the Academy of Philadelphia."

At a meeting of the trustees of the Academy, held on the 25th of May, 1754:

"It being proposed that Mr. William Smith, a gentleman lately arrived from London, should be entertained for some time upon Trial to teach Natural Philosophy, Logic, etc., in case he will undertake the same, it was agreed to, and Mr. Franklin and Mr. Peters are desired to speak to him about it." \*

This is the first time that the name of Dr. Smith appears upon the minutes of

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\* Printed in Smith's "Life of Smith" in connection with matter relating to 1753. The minutes of the trustees give it under date of 1754.

the trustees, and this fact shows that the negotiations up to that time had been unofficially conducted by Franklin and Peters. We have dwelt at considerable length upon the circumstances that led to Dr. Smith's connection with the Academy, although it is largely biographical, because it is almost entirely new, and is necessary for a correct understanding of the history of the College.

When Dr. Smith arrived in Philadelphia in May, 1754, one of the most important epochs in the history of the province was about to open. In less than two weeks his friends Franklin and Peters started for Albany to meet representatives of other colonies, to consult about their common defence; and it was to that gathering that Franklin presented his famous plan for a Union of the Colonies.

In the next year came the disastrous defeat of General Braddock, and then the bitter quarrel between the Proprietors of Pennsylvania and the Assembly regarding the defence of the province, in which Franklin supported the latter and Smith

took up the cudgels for his friend and patron, Thomas Penn. It was undoubtedly Smith's friendship for the Penns, the foundation whereof was laid in the winter of 1753-54, which led to his difference with Franklin, and finally caused the College to be looked upon as a Proprietary institution,—the reason given for the abrogation of its charter and the confiscation of its property in 1779.

As soon as Dr. Smith was settled in the Academy, he began his work in earnest. He endeavoured to interest his students in their studies by showing a personal interest in what interested them. He was one of the first to recognize in Benjamin West the talents that made him famous. He directed his reading to channels that would suggest to his mind subjects worthy of his pencil, and advised him to make his portraits more than physical likenesses by painting them in suitable character. In this he assisted him by standing for his own portrait in the attitude of St. Ignatius. He saved Godfrey from the drudgery of a disagreeable apprenticeship, and encour-

aged his taste for poetry, introducing him and West to two of his brightest pupils, Francis Hopkinson and Jacob Duché. One of his students, a son of his former patron, died, and on that occasion Dr. Smith preached the sermon already mentioned. It was printed, together with poems by the young man's classmates that attracted much attention.

Some understanding must have been arrived at in connection with Dr. Smith's appointment, providing that, if it proved agreeable to the trustees and to himself, a charter should be applied for, conferring on the Academy the privileges of a college; that Dr. Smith should be made its Provost, and Mr. Alison, the Rector of the Academy, should take the position of Vice-Provost.

This, as Dr. Wood has shown, was what took place in 1755. Two years afterwards the first annual commencement was held, and as long as Dr. Smith presided over the College, these occasions, so important in the minds of the graduates and their friends, were made ceremonious affairs;



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but, alas for Franklin's hopes that English should take precedence of all other studies in the Academy, the commencement programmes were printed in Latin, and must have been unintelligible to a majority of the audience.

I have before me the Commencement Programme for 1762, the year when Dr. Smith was in England. Six graduating youths had to debate, presumably in Latin, upon the following topics:

1. Greek and Latin Grammar.
2. Rhetoric.
3. Logic.
4. Metaphysics (subdivided into Ontology, the Human Mind, and the Deity).
5. Physics.
6. Morals (subdivided into Ethics and Natural Jurisprudence).
7. Politics.

The opening propositions in Ontology are these (translated from the Latin):

"1. Whatever has no existence has no essence. Therefore,

"2. All essences cannot have existed in the mind of God from eternity."

Under the heading *De Mente Humanâ*, the first thesis is :

“There is surely an analogy between divine and human wisdom.”

The third is a little piece of anti-Platonism :

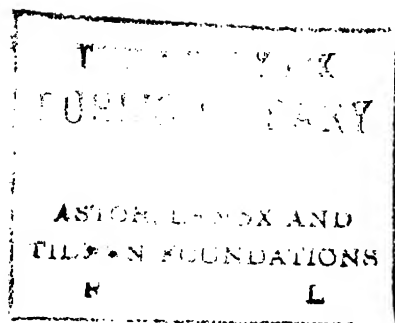
“All divine ideas have been without archetypes.”

Under the head of Physics are discussed various theses in gravitation, magnetism, electricity, hydrostatics, optics, and astronomy. Here are two of them :

“12. The resistance of fluids is in the ratio of the square of the velocity: the impetus of a fluid in motion has also the same ratio.”

“14. Two men cannot see the same rainbow at the same time.”

After these points were dealt with, came the theses in Morals, Jurisprudence, and Politics. But we have given enough to show the compass of these boys' minds. Franklin, had he been at home that spring, ought to have listened with delight to such learned debates on his favourite topics. Nor need we be surprised at the attain-



Should fairer days, returning, smile again  
On *England* and on me—

Ha! EDWIN here?

This way, my friend—speak softly—

EDWIN *whispers the king aside.*

How!—'tis well!—

Back to thy post: I follow on the instant—

Yet stay—Behold my queen, and infant-sons!

EDWIN—thy king's whole wealth is there summ'd up!

Nay, wipe thine eyes: and tell my gallant friends

What thou hast seen. The tale will lend new force

To each man's arm, and with redoubled weight

Urge every well-aim'd blow. Hence! speed thee well.

*my children*  
ELTRUDA—we must part—

ELTRUDA *What do I hear?*

*Alas my Father*  
*My life, my love—*

ALFRED.

Part for a few sad moments,

That our next meeting may be long and happy.

*us*  
What leave ~~me~~ now? O my presaging heart!

Already leave ~~me~~! 'Tis the dreadful call

Of glory, somewhat perilously great,

And big with urgent haste, that tears thee from ~~me~~ *us*

Oh ALFRED—*royal Father!*

*I live we.*

*Will you leave us*  
To wander helpless thro' this Desert wild  
In orphan woe? No friendly Voice to cheer us?  
No arm to save us from the bloody Dane?

*Alfred*  
Fear not, my Sons—You are at present safe,

[FAC-SIMILE OF A PAGE FROM "THE MASQUE OF ALFRED,"

SHOWING DR. SMITH'S ADAPTATIONS FOR THE USE OF HIS STUDENTS.]

ments of youths who, in addition to the ordinary school classics, had read Lucian, Longinus, Plato's *Laws*, and the Greek Testament. This last was read in the Latin and Greek schools, together with selections from the Old Testament in Latin. The reading of the Four Gospels in Greek was required for entrance into the University down to the early part of the nineteenth century.

Provost Smith never lost an opportunity of having his College appear in a proper light before the public. When a new governor arrived, he would receive an address from the faculty and students of the College, and while in England in 1763 he had inserted in the *Liverpool Advertiser* for July 21st an account of the commencement that took place in May. In 1757 the Earl of Loudon, the commander-in-chief of the British forces in America, met some of the governors of the Colonies in Philadelphia to consult about public measures, and the students of the College performed Mallet's *Masque of Alfred* in their presence. It was adapted to the occasion by the Provost,

and several pages from the copy then used, bearing alterations in Dr. Smith's handwriting, are here given to show the duties the Provost of a colonial college felt called upon to perform.

For a year after the charter of a College was obtained, the course of studies followed in the Academy was continued. In May, 1756, however, the Provost, at the request of the Trustees, prepared a curriculum for the College.

"It is impossible," writes Dr. Stillé, "to read this 'Plan,' remembering that a century ago all plans of education on this continent were experiments to be tried under circumstances wholly novel and peculiar, without being struck with the sagacity, judgment, and far-reaching views of its author. Its best eulogy is that it has formed the basis of our present American college system. He set out with the sound principle so frequently forgotten in our day, but quite as true now as it was then, that nothing can be proposed by any scheme of collegiate education, but to lay such a general foundation in all

branches of literature as may enable the youth to perfect themselves in those particular parts to which their business or genius may afterwards lead them; and scarce anything has more obstructed the advancement of sound learning than a vain imagination that a few years spent at college can render youth such absolute masters of science as to absolve them from all future study." The *curriculum* of study, both in the choice of subjects and in the order in which they were taken up, was not unlike that which until recently formed the general system of instruction in all our American colleges. The period of study extended over three years, and during that time Juvenal, Cicero, Livy resumed,\* Horace's *Ars Poetica*, Quintilian, and the Tusculan Questions were read in the order given. In Greek, the Iliad, Pindar, Thucydides, Epictetus, and Plato de Legibus formed the text-books. In mathematics, the course was extended, while in

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\* Livy had been read before in the Latin School. See curriculum in Smith's "Life of Smith."

the Department of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Hydrostatics, Pneumatics, Optics, and Astronomy occupied the attention of the students during a large portion of the Junior and Senior years. A good deal of time was given also (much more than in the present College course) to instruction in Ethics, and in Natural and Civil Law, as illustrated by History.

It may be safely affirmed that in 1756 no such comprehensive scheme of education existed in any college in the American colonies. We have Dr. Smith's own authority for saying that this scheme did not exist merely on paper, but that it was faithfully carried out in its details, and with the most brilliant results, during the whole period of his connection with the College. This statement is confirmed, so far as the instruction in Natural and Moral Philosophy is concerned, by an examination of the note-books of the lectures (which are still preserved) which he delivered on those subjects. Although some of the doctrines laid down by him in matters of Natural Science may be out of date, they represent

fully the learning of that day, while his opinions on Ethics, and especially upon the nature and laws of civil society, might be read now with great advantage to the most advanced classes of our Colleges.\*

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\* From "A Memoir of Rev. Wm. Smith, D.D." By Chas. J. Stillé.

## CHAPTER XIX.

## THE ROYAL BRIEF.

GREAT as Dr. Smith's services were in providing a course of studies to be followed in the College, even greater were those he rendered it in taking up the subscription for its benefit in 1762 and 1763 under the Royal Brief mentioned by Dr. Wood.\* Dr. Stillé, with fuller material at his command than Dr. Wood possessed, gives a spirited account of this service, from which the following is gathered :

"He arrived in England early in 1762 full of hope and confidence, although a good deal annoyed by accounts from home of the manner in which his character and intentions had been assailed in his absence. He writes to Mr. Peters, September 14th :

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\* See foot-note, page 52.

“ ‘ I find you have strange stories of my being made Commissary, Rector, and the Lord knows what, and that my chief scheme here was to hunt something for myself. I leave the issue of things to show how ill-treated I am in all these matters by low, tattling people, who, because they never do anything disinterested themselves, are unwilling to allow it in others. These things might provoke any man to quit all connections with such a people. But the honour I propose to myself in *being a kind of Founder of our College*, you may rest assured shall overbalance every other consideration, and this business shall be most faithfully finished, be my treatment what it will. My faults I see and acknowledge, but am sure have such things to put in the balance against them, as with any good men, would procure me every reasonable favour. I could have favour here, but nothing earthly shall divert me from my purposes for the good of our College. My heart is in America, and there I shall finish my days in some place or another.’ ”

On the 29th of September, Dr. Smith left London for the North to visit his aged father. At Edinburgh he waited on Dr. Robinson, Dr. Wishart, Dr. Cumming, and others, whom he found well disposed to serve him. At Glasgow he met with the same encouragement. Many of the clergy expressed themselves pleased with the catholic plan of the College, having professors of different persuasions. After travelling more than twelve hundred miles in about seven weeks, he returned to London to meet Dr. Jay, who had taken a like tour to the southward on the same plan. "After two or three days in London," says he, in Dr. Stillé's account, "we set out again for Oxford, thinking it a compliment due to them to be both there. From Oxford we went to Gloucester, and to the manufacturing towns in that county: Dr. Jay taking part of them, and myself the other part, so as to meet at Bath, which we did a day or two before Christmas, and then proceeded to London."

"Their zeal for the 'design,'" continues Dr. Stillé, "would not allow them, how-

ever, to take any holiday. They found a continual attendance upon the clergy of London necessary; 'every one of whom, being near two hundred in number, we must see within this fortnight, and before they can read the Brief, which we are to give them with our own hand. Many principal people also are to be waited on before the Brief is laid in their particular Parish, because we hope they will give more to ourselves than to a Brief.'

"The list of persons who preferred to give directly to the Agents rather than to the Brief-Commissioners now lies before me, and it is a most curious and interesting document. It embraces more than eight hundred names of people of every rank and condition in life, residing in widely distant portions of the kingdom, from the 'King's most sacred Majesty,' who contributed £200, and the Princess Dowager of Wales, who gave £100, to 'Master Tommy Ellis,' who offered his mite of two shillings and sixpence! In the list are to be found, as has been said, the names of both Archbishops and of

all the Bishops, and of very many of the clergy, one of whom, Rev. Dr. Tew, Rector of Bolden, near Newcastle, gave £100. There is also a long array of noblemen, including the Dukes of Devonshire and Newcastle, the Duchess of Argyle, the Earls of Shelburne, Dartmouth, Temple, Chesterfield, and Shaftesbury, Lords Bute, Clive, Grosvenor, Spencer, Gage, etc. Each of these historical personages made a liberal donation. Among the contributors was the Right Hon. William Pitt, who gave £50. How easy it is to recognize the pompous style of the man in the account Dr. Smith gives of him. 'He professed himself prodigiously pleased with the printed representation, declaring it to be the noblest scheme that could animate the breast of a Christian, and that it is an indispensable duty for us to take care to promote our religion and useful arts as far as our conquests carry us; adding, that if we cannot raise our sum Parliament should do the rest, and voluntarily saying that it would not want his interest.' 'But,' adds Dr. Smith, with char-

acteristic good sense, 'for all this we can expect nothing from that quarter.'

"The various Colleges of the University of Oxford gave £163, although Dr. Smith complains in his diary 'that at St. John's and Baliol, Dr. Franklin's friends were very averse.' At the University of Cambridge he collected £166. Liverpool gave £211; Halifax, £52; Birmingham, £127; Bristol, £112; Gloucester and the neighbouring towns, £85. These amounts are made up of small sums, far the larger portion of them not exceeding a guinea each, contributed by several hundred different persons, and the labour attending such a collection can only be estimated by those who have had experience in such undertakings. In this way were gathered for the two Colleges about £2400.

"Every means was resorted to of attracting the attention and securing the donations of charitably disposed persons. Every Sunday, from March to June, 1763, the London pulpits were occupied by the most popular preachers of the day who had been induced by Dr. Smith to preach

in favour of the design, and he himself preached twice every Sunday on the same subject. Nor were other means of a more worldly character neglected. Dr. Smith writes :—‘ We are to have a benefit oratorio at Drury Lane, and Mr. Beard leaves his own house to perform for us at the other. Mr. Garrick has been exceedingly kind in the matter. The principal performers, vocal and instrumental, serve *gratis*, and we are favoured with the boys from the Chapel Royal, and every mark of distinction. Mr. Tyer even put off the opening of Vauxhall, which was fixed for Wednesday night, in order to favour us.’ ”

CHAPTER XX.

DR. SMITH'S QUARREL WITH FRANKLIN.—POLITICAL DIFFERENCE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.—CONCLUSION.

DR. SMITH'S labours in taking up this subscription were increased by his unfortunate difference with Franklin. Besides their political quarrel, it is said that Dr. Smith was so imprudent as to have written to the authorities of the University of Oxford, protesting against the conferring of the degree of Doctor of Laws on Franklin. We do not know that Franklin was aware of this; but, if he was, it is not surprising that, although Dr. Smith's instructions from the trustees of the College of Philadelphia directed him to be guided by Franklin's advice on his arrival in England, his reception was far from cordial.

Franklin was about to embark for home, and Dr. Smith wrote that he "either could not or would not do anything more than give me a general introduction to his friends." Dr. Smith soon discovered that Franklin's dislike for him was far stronger than his sympathy with the business which had brought him to England, and heard that he had spoken of the College while in England as a narrow, bigoted institution, put into the hands of the Proprietary party as an engine of government; that the Dissenters had no influence in it ("though God knows," adds Dr. Smith, "all the professors but myself are of that persuasion"), and that it would be readily supported were it not for these things. How much truth there was in these reports it is impossible to say. Dr. Smith believed them, and when his denunciations reached Franklin's ears, the latter wrote: "I do not wonder at the behaviour you mention of Dr. S—— towards me, for I have long since known him thoroughly. I made that man my enemy by doing him too much kindness. It is the honestest way

of acquiring an enemy. And since it is convenient to have at least one enemy, who, by his readiness to revile one on all occasions, may make one careful of one's conduct, I shall keep him an enemy for that purpose." \*

The strength of the College while presided over by Dr. Smith was remarkable. This is not shown by the number of graduates, which, possibly on account of the standard required, was never large, but by that of students who attended the several schools. This number was on several occasions as high as two hundred, independent of the Charity School; and, on account of the non-sectarian character of the institution, these scholars were drawn from the neighbouring colonies.

But this strength was destroyed by that political rancor inseparable from revolutions. Whether Franklin would have made the effort that Dr. Wood thinks he would to save the institution in 1779, is, we think, doubtful, when we remember

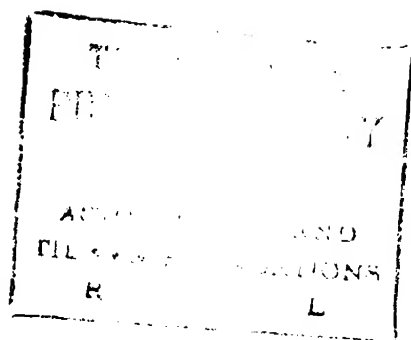
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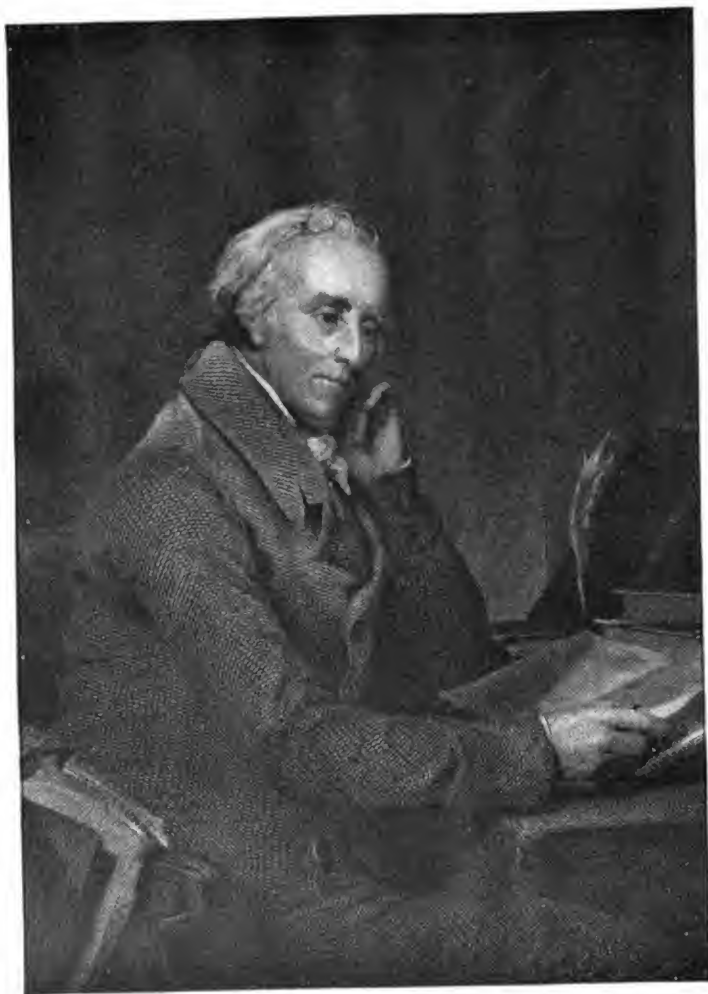
\* Franklin to Mary Stevenson; March 25, 1763.

how widely he and Dr. Smith had become separated and how bitterly he opposed the Penns. It is true, however, that at the request of the Rev. H. Mühlenberg, Dr. Smith, the Rev. William (afterwards Bishop) White, and others, Franklin was instrumental in having that clause introduced into the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776, protecting the property of religious societies and institutions of learning, which restored the charter and property of the College to its trustees in 1789.

Dr. Smith was very active in bringing this about, and his activity was stimulated by the danger that he saw threatened his darling College. To accomplish his purpose, he enlisted Dr. Mühlenberg and the ministers of other denominations in the movement, and his thrusting them to the front is good evidence of his conviction that if the proposition were known to come from him it would not be received with favour.

The political animosity that crept into the affairs of the College and into those of its successor, known for a few years as





BENJAMIN RUSH, M.D.

"The University of the State of Pennsylvania," is seen in the glimpses we have of the political and social circles of the day.

As Dr. Wood has stated, the trustees of the "University of the State of Pennsylvania" were, to a great extent, representatives of the New Government, and the Faculty of the institution were, as a rule, of the same political faith. Those who opposed that government, the "Anti-Constitutional" party of 1777, looked upon the prostrate College as a victim of political malignancy, and lost no opportunity of expressing their opinion. Dr. Rush, a bitter Anti-Constitutionalist, was very severe, and when describing the company who gathered at the French Minister's at a ball given in 1782 to celebrate the birth of the Dauphin, he wrote: "Here were the learned faculty of the College, and among them many who did not know whether Cicero pleaded in Latin or Greek; or whether Horace was a Roman or a Scotchman."

Naturally those in charge of the University felt that it owed its origin to the

State Constitution, which provided for such an institution; and before the work of the Federal Convention of 1787 was made public, it was charged in the papers of the day that a meeting was held at the residence of Dr. Ewing, the Provost of the University, at which it was decided that if the proposed form for a general government should threaten to overshadow the State Constitution in importance, it should be opposed; and when it did appear it was immediately attacked by Benjamin Workman, a tutor in the University.

Dr. Rush was a warm advocate of the proposed Constitution, and, while the excitement was at its height, met with a young friend who was about to graduate, and suggested his inserting in his thesis a wish that the Constitution should be adopted as a means of relieving the country of its difficulties. The members of the Pennsylvania Convention, which was consulting about the propriety of adopting the Constitution, attended the Commencement. When the unfortunate orator came to the passage suggested by Dr. Rush, the

Provost, Dr. Ewing, sneered contemptuously, and finally cried out: "Ha! ha! ha! This is some of Rush's froth, nonsense, and stuff," and censured the speaker for having presumed to touch upon an undecided public measure, declaring at the same time that he considered it "a very bad form of government"; and while the speech was warmly applauded, the speaker was obliged to take it to the Vice-Provost, Dr. Magaw, by whom it was altered.

There is no evidence that either Franklin or Dr. Smith participated in these political feelings that were nullifying the attempts to make the University useful. Dr. Smith at the time was using every effort to have the Act that abrogated the charter of the College repealed. In this Dr. Wood states that he had the support of Franklin.\*

It would be pleasant to think that this was so, and that as death was soon to separate these two earnest workers in the cause of education, the differences and

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\* See foot-note, page 94.

animosities that had estranged them were laid aside. On Dr. Smith's part it was undoubtedly so, for one of the greatest efforts of his life was that in which, before the American Philosophical Society, he paid tribute to the services of Benjamin Franklin.

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